



'THE DOZZY DETAIL'

Message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy half-term is has been at Dorchester! Our children have show resilience, perseverance and self-belief in abundance over the last few weeks, as they tackled tests and overcame fears.



I am incredibly proud of how far we have come as a community over the last two years, even with a pandemic to contend with. Our children really have risen the high-expectations we have of them, and our site has never looked better. We are grateful to Tony, our site manager, and Chris, our site assistant, who are committed to improving our school site even more.

Whilst I know that not everybody has agreed with every decision we have made, please rest assured that we are working in the best interests of your children. We have had some lovely comments this half-term from parents, carers and visitors about how staff are welcoming and go 'above and beyond' and how our children use their manners. It is enlightening to hear such positive comments, rather than those who comment negatively about the work we do.

You, as parents/carers, choose to send your child(ren) to Dorchester and, as such, place your faith in us that we will do a good job for them. If you do have any concerns, please address them in the right way, by speaking to a member of our team, and not via social media.

Thank you for your continues support, and have a lovely half-term break.

Mr Stuart Mills & The Dorchester Team

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Visitors to Site

I am disappointed that I am having to again make a request that when you visit the school site, whether that be to collect a child or to speak to a member of staff, that you show respect at all times.

Again, we have had instances where adults (and in some cases teenage children) have used offensive and abusive language in the hearing of our children and members of staff. What is worse is that some of this has been directed at my staff.

I emphasise now that this type of behaviour from adults (and teenagers) will not be tolerated. The staff at Dorchester come to work to do the best they can for your children. They are not here to be treated disrespectfully or abusively.

You, our community, are important to us and it is only by working strongly together that we will get the absolute best for our children. Please support us and, where you have any difficulties or concerns, address them in the correct way.

Anybody found using offensive language and/or aggressive behaviour may be banned from the school site indefinitely.

Thank you the many parents and carers who conduct themselves well — you are a credit to our community.

What's Been Happening?

It has been a very busy month at Dorchester!

Our year 5 and 6 children had a brilliant (albeit tiring) three days at Robinwood and came back 'buzzing' about their experiences. The photos looked great and the stories they told sounded so exciting. The adults commented on how brilliantly they represented our school!

Year 2 had a brilliant dance & drama workshop with Chris from Hull Children's University. Chris has been into Dorchester a lot recently and the children really do love working alongside him.

The whole school had fun working with Ladies in Pigs, where the children learnt how to make sausage rolls and pasties. The parent session was also so well attended and we hop you enjoyed your pancakes and bacon!

Our netballers played another league match this week, against Spring Cottage. Despite losing, they worked so well as a team and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship!

Finally, we had our 'Jubilee Lunch' at school and children were welcome to come to school dressed in British colours. Don't worry—our actual Jubilee event is not until after half-term, and we look forward to welcoming you all on Friday 10th June in the afternoon.



Reading for Pleasure

We know that sometimes, finding time to read with your children can be difficult, whilst you wrestle with busy households. However, we cannot emphasise enough how much of a positive impact regular reading has on children.

Our reading journey in school has progressed well and we are now focussing on promoting reading for pleasure.

We encourage you to spend some time reading to your children at night — if you don't have books to read, please pop into school and we can provide some.

Subject Spotlight — Art

Our subject leader for Music is **Miss Townsend**

Art is one of our 'foundation subjects'. Pupils in all classes take part in a sequence of art lessons every term. Each key stage has the opportunity to explore a range of artists throughout the year with a particular focus and skill to learn. Each artist we explore, will use a specific technique to create their artwork, which we teach and model to pupils before they explore these techniques themselves. In EYFS our children have daily opportunities to be creative and create their own artwork as well as having the opportunity to access an after-school 'craft club'.

All pupils in classes year 1 to year 6 have their own individual sketchbook where they can practice a specific technique and draft what their final piece of work will look like. Pupils are also encouraged to use their sketchbooks alongside other subjects too.

Each year we dedicate at least one day as an 'art day' in which the whole school participate in an art project. In Hull we have some amazing artist around the city and like to celebrate this as a school by encouraging local artist to visit our school and work with our children to promote a love of art and being creative.

Success Stories

Name: Tyler-James

Year: 5

Tyler-James is an avid rugby player who was nominated for 'player of the match' two weeks running. Not only is he skilled at rugby, but his team ethic, support and encouragement for others really stands out.

Tyler-James knows what makes a good sports person and demonstrates these skills in all of the matches he plays in.

Well done Tyler!



Why Attendance Matters

There is lots of published research about why school attendance is so important for children. Where children miss even 1 day per week over the course of a year, this miss out on 38 days of learning. If they continue this over their entire schooling, this would equate to 456 days of lost learning, or 1 year and 91 days.

The government define any child whose attendance is below 95% as a 'persistent absentee'. This means that they are having more time off than is normal. Of course there are always exceptional circumstances, where children may have longer-term health issues, or sustain a significant injury, but it is the job of the school to monitor and challenge attendance.

Research suggests that missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for May is: **93.6%**

Our target attendance is: **96%**

Class	Attendance
Rec	96%
Year 1	95.4%
2KP	92.8%
2CF	92.6%
3ER	90.4%
3SP	93.4%
4AW	93.6%
4MH	94.4%
5LT	95.7%
5EP	94.9%
6AC	95.1%
6MP	90.6%

Well done to Reception — the only class to meet our target!

As a result of our school attendance being low, I have requested the support of the Local Authority's Education Welfare Officer, who will visit families whose children have poor attendance. They will offer support to families and also support us with referring for fining where attendance does not improve.

Safeguarding

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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



- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Thursday 26th May | - Break off for half-term |
| Wednesday 8th June | - Children return to school |
| Friday 11th June | - Queen's Jubilee Celebration (from 1:15pm) |
| Thursday 16th June | - School Nursing Team working with Y6 |
| Friday 17th June | - Ocean Day (dress up in colours/costumes of the sea) |
| Monday 20th June | - Police working with Y6 |
| Wednesday 6th July | - Sports Day (am = EYFS/KS1, pm = KS2) |
| Friday 8th July | - Y4 music event at The Bonus Arena (am) |
| 11th—15th July | - School reports sent to parents |
| Wednesday 20th July | - Transition week — children move up to their new classes |
| | - Y6 production to parents (2pm and 6pm) |
| | - Y5 London Visit |
| Thursday 21st July | - Y6 leavers disco (4:00—5:30pm) |
| Friday 22nd July | - Y6 leavers assembly (1:30-3:00pm) |
| | - Break off for summer holidays |
| Tuesday 6th September | - Children return to school |