



Dorchester Primary School

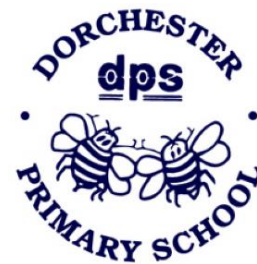
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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week 16 – 13th January 2023

Message from Mr Mills

This week has been a very calm and purposeful week at school. I have visited all classes on several occasions and have been so impressed with the children's attitudes and behaviour – they show that they really rise the expectations we have of them.

Our assembly this week focussed on healthy living, and we spoke to the children about what they could do to be both physically and mentally healthier. Supporting children's mental well-being is a priority for us at Dorchester and our emotional well-being team do a wonderful job with this. If you have any concerns about your child's mental well-being, please do contact Mrs Boothby, who is our emotional well-being lead.

Our year 6 children had a nice surprise this week when they were all issued their own personal laptop device to use. As we look ahead to our year 6s moving on to secondary (which will come around quicker than we think), we want them to learn to take responsibility for things and use what is available to them to help their learning.

Have a great weekend!

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Parent Pay

We have now been a 'cashless' school for over a year and the vast majority of you have used the Parent Pay system effectively. Please ensure that all payments, for both school lunches and visits, are made in a timely manner via Parent Pay. We currently have lots of 'outstanding balances', which the school cannot afford to cover. Our office team will be contacting those families with outstanding balances over the next week.

Attendance

I am very concerned about the number of children who are poor attenders at school. We currently have 82 children who have attendance that is below 90%. That means that since our return in September, they have had at least 8 days of absence. The government requires us to monitor any child whose attendance is below 95% and put appropriate support and challenge in place to improve this. We have a very clear attendance policy,



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

which can be found on our website here: <https://dorchesterprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/HCAT-Attendance-Policy-Sep-23.pdf> and I encourage you to read the 'Parent Responsibilities' section on page 3.

We have a duty to know where our children are when they are not at school, and this is why my attendance team make telephone calls home and carry out home visits. It is **your responsibility** as the parent/carer to notify the school of any absence and ensure your child attends school every day. Not sending your child to school regularly or keeping them off without valid reason could constitute 'Educational Neglect'. The school will work with partner agencies, including the Educational Welfare Service, to tackle frequent absence and authorise fines where appropriate. Please support us in providing the best opportunities for your child by sending them to school every day.

Attendance

Whole-school weekly attendance	93.2% - (below target of 96%)
Class with the best attendance	6MP with 96.8% 😊
<i>Please ensure your child is at school on time, every day. If you are having any difficulties with getting your child to school, please contact our attendance officers: Mrs Gasparelli or Mrs Steer.</i>	

Upcoming events in the next two weeks

Monday 16 th January	World Religion Day (all classes will take part in activities)
Tuesday 17 th January	5EP Pizza Express visit

All of our key dates for this term are on our website here:
<https://dorchesterprimary.org.uk/calendar/>

Messages

After-school Clubs

Our extra-curricular clubs have started again this week, with Jujitsu, History, Netball, Football, Cheerleading, Pokémon, Art and SATs Booster. If your child has signed up to a club, please ensure that they attend regularly or their place may be offered to another child. I would like to thank the staff, who give up their own time, to offer these experiences to our children.

Office Messages

Could parents/carers please remember to book school dinners on Parent Pay. If you need any support with this, pop into the office and speak to our admin staff.

Also, if you need to speak to a member of staff about any concerns you have, please make an appointment through the office as staff may not be available straight away. An appointment will ensure that it is a convenient time for both parties.

What's been happening in school this week?

EYFS	Year 1/2
Nursery children have been focusing on the new phoneme 'd'. They have also created a story map for our nursery rhyme 'Little Bo Peep'. In maths we have been looking at the number 0 and we have been singing lots of counting songs. The children have also really enjoyed using our new climbing frame. This has been fantastic to promote their gross motor skills and	This week in KS1 we have sequenced the key events in the story 'Little Red Riding Hood' and have practised writing descriptive sentences for the opening of the story. In phonics year 1 have been learning some new sounds 'y' (ee) in (happy) 'ea' (e)(head), wh (wheel) oe/ ou in (toe) & (boulder)

core strengths.

In reception, we have started to teach Phase 3 Phonics and we now know ai, ee, igh and oa. We are also getting more confident when writing words independently – we have been very busy completing Phonics challenges in continuous provision.



In Maths, we have been continuing our learning on 'Zero' and we've also been exploring 'sharing' and whether something is fair or not. In Literacy, we have started to unpick the vocabulary in our core story 'Whatever next' and we know the meaning of the words 'journey, fragile, dripped and roared'.

In year 1 maths we have been learning that the faces of 3d shapes are made up from 2d shapes. Year 2 have been exploring how to make the same amount of money using different coins.

In art we have looked at the features used in the artwork of artist 'Henri Rousseau' and spotted the imposter paintings in our 'art gallery'

Year 3/4

This week, year 3/4 have started their new geography unit learning all about land use and how this is shown on a variety of maps. They have learnt all about rural, urban and suburban areas and are going to start looking at key features of hamlets, villages, towns, cities and ports and plot these on maps.



We have also enjoyed continuing programming a sprite on scratch using laptops and added sound to them this week as well as learning some new skills in dodgeball.

Year 5

Year 5 this week have been continuing working on retrieval on the first chapter of Infinite Lives of Maisie Day, then exploring vocabulary about sharks. In maths, children have been starting their fraction unit by converting improper fractions to mixed number. In writing, we have been building up our descriptions of characters for our narrative. Then in afternoon, we have looking at the physical properties of mountain types and building on our pastel skills in art.

Please remember 5EP are on a trip on Tuesday, school uniform to be worn.

Year 6

Hive

<p>In Year 6 this week, we have started our new writing unit – newspapers. We spent time exploring the shape of a newspaper before using our best pun skills to create a headline and strap line to engage our reader. In our reading, we have focused on securing our retrieval skills on our new core text set during the Victorian period, <i>Cogheart</i>, and then used a non-fiction text to deepen our understanding of the expectations for Victorian women. In maths, we have become confident and competent at adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals!</p>	<p>This week in The Hive we have enjoyed getting to know our new story 'Whatever Next?'</p> <p>We have explored mark making and collaging to create rockets, welly boots and teddy bears to reflect what we have seen in the story.</p> <p>We have explored music and movement with props and familiar songs as well as creating number rockets to 5 and 10.</p>
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Next Week's Menu				
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Sausage with mashed potato and gravy	Ham and cheese pizza with curly fries	Chicken curry with rice	Chicken nuggets with chips and beans	Fish with chips and beans/peas.
Quorn sausage (V)	Margherita pizza (V)	Tomato pasta (V)	Veggie nuggets (V)	Veggie nuggets (V)
Plus, a selection of sandwiches and jacket potatoes.				