



Dorchester Primary School

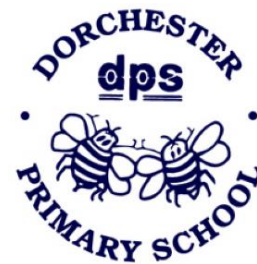
Dorchester Road
Kingston upon Hull
HU7 6AH

Tel. (01482) 825207
Fax. (01482) 833016

E-mail: admin.dorchester@hcat.org.uk

www.dorchesterprimary.org.uk

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



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week 17 – 20th January 2023

Message from Mr Mills

The weather has certainly taken a dip in the wrong direction this week, and we even had the delight of some snow! Thankfully, this frost will be short lived, as temperatures are set to rise over the weekend and into next week.

Teacher Strikes

A few of you have asked about what will happen in the event that some of our teachers go on strike towards the end of this month/beginning of next. At this time, I am unable to provide any further information on this but will let you know as soon as I am able. In any case, if we do have some teachers striking, it will be our aim to keep the school open for as many children as possible.

From next Tuesday, I will not be in school for two weeks, as I am taking part in a training course. In my absence, if you need to speak to somebody, then please follow the usual channels of class teacher, phase leader, Assistant Head (Mrs Horsham) and then Deputy Head (Mrs Van der Walt).

Have a great weekend!

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Attendance

Whole-school weekly attendance	91.1% – well below target
Class with the best attendance	6MP with 97.7% 😊
<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

Wednesday 25 th January	SEN Parent Coffee Morning (9:30am)
Tuesday 31 st January	Y3/4 Dodgeball Competition (4pm)



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

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

Messages

Children walking home

As you will know from a message sent out via Parent Pay last week, we were notified by one of our parents that a child from our school was approached by a stranger whilst walking home alone, following an after-school club. Thankfully, other members of the public were close by and the male rode off. This was passed on to the police but I would like to remind everybody to be vigilant and report anything unusual or different. If your child attends an after-school club, we would encourage an adult to collect them afterwards, especially whilst the evenings are still very dark.

What's been happening in school this week?

EYFS

In Nursery, the children have had a very busy week and the adults have been super proud of the listening skills of the children this week, showing active listening. In phonics the children have been learning the grapheme 'g' and having a go at thinking of a word that starts with that sound. We have learnt the rhyme 'five little ducks' in literacy. The children enjoyed using the props to act out the rhyme and continued this independently during continuous provision. In maths we have been comparing size and using lots of size language. In Phonics we are continuing to learn Phase 3 digraphs 'oo, ar, or' and the children are becoming confident spotting these digraphs within words!

In reception, in Maths, we have been exploring 'fewer' and have been using tens frames to represent our favourite number rhymes.

In Literacy we have been learning to retell our new core story 'Whatever Next' using a story map and signifiers. The children have also impressed us so much with their independent writing all about Baby Bear!

Year 1/2

This week in KS1 we have focused on writing the build-up part of the story 'Little Red Riding Hood.' We have been describing the items in our baskets and thinking about the ways we could travel through the deep, dark forest.

This week in phonics the year 1 children have learnt the sounds 'y' (fly), 'ow' (snow) and 'g' (giant). In spelling the year 2 children have been adding the suffixes ed, er, est and ing.

In year 1 maths we have been working on place value to 20. We have been looking at how to make teen numbers using tens and ones.

In year 2 maths we have been finishing off our money unit by thinking about how we could make £1. We also completed a variety of money word problems.

This week in art we have been exploring how to use tone to alter the lightness or darkness of a colour. We really enjoyed painting and sketching our own tonal scales.

In science we have started our new unit of animals including humans. We have been labelling different animals and their offspring.

Year 3/4

Year 3/4 have continued to learn all about sound in science where they made telephones using paper cups and string and explored how the sound travelled through the particles in the solid to make the sound louder across a further distance.

In writing, we have completed our first diary entry from the perspective of the crow in our story 'Leaf'. We have also read the first two chapters of our new

Year 5

This week has been another busy one in year 5!

We have learnt all about adding and subtracting proper and improper fractions in maths and how we might need to make them equivalent if the denominators aren't the same while continuing





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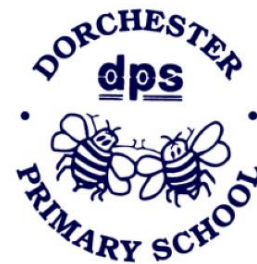
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<p>narrative 'The Wild Robot' and explored some non-fiction texts relating to the topics in this story of oceans and otters.</p> <p>In maths, we have continued to work hard on using column methods in multiplication to multiply 2 and 3 digits by one digit as well as dividing with remainders.</p>	<p>reading 'The Infinite Lives of Maisey Day' through our reading lessons. In science, we finished off our forces unit by discovering all about levers, pulleys and gears. Also, we began our D&T project by investigating products before we design our own. Finally, 5EP really enjoyed their pizza making trip to Pizza Express and then being welcomed into the Minster to see the stonemasons at work restoring the old plaques while out on the trail for Blue Plaques. Their behaviour was commended by the volunteers in the Minster and now 5CH can't wait for their trip next month.</p>
Year 6	Hive
<p>In Year 6 this week, we have been exploring our inference skills with our core text in guided reading, focusing on finding evidence in a text. We then progressed to exploring this skill with our poem, 'Geography Lesson'. In our Maths, we have explored converting units, and then looked at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. We also sharpened our skills in finding percentages of amounts. In our Writing, we have continued our newspaper report, focusing on creating 'the jelly effect' in our reader (making them feel a strong personal connection to the events of the report).</p>	<p>This week in The Hive we have been exploring different textures and materials through food play. The children have observed how pasta can change forms and explored this through play.</p> <p>In maths we have been identifying different 2D shapes and counting from 1-20.</p> <p>We have been practicing our fine motor skills by using scissors to cut different types of lines.</p>

Next Week's Menu				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meatballs with mashed potato and vegetables.	Sausage, omelette, hash brown and beans.	Cheesy pasta bake with garlic bread.	Chicken with roast potatoes and vegetables.	Fish with chips and beans/peas.
Veggie Nuggets (V)	Quorn sausage (V)	Tomato pasta (V)	Veggie nuggets (V)	Chees and tomato quiche (V)
Plus, a selection of sandwiches and jacket potatoes.				



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