



Dorchester Primary School

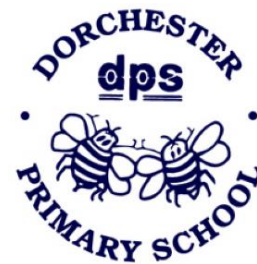
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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week 26 – 31st March 2023

Message from Mr Mills

So, we have made it to the end of another extremely busy half-term.

So many events have filled this half-term, including visits to Play Avenue, The Yorkshire Wildlife Park and The Wolds, as well as years 4 and 5 taking part in their swimming sessions. As well as this, our netball team have played all of their competitive matches, the last of which was this week, triumphing 5-4 against Bricknell Primary. Also, some of our KS2 children took part in a dodgeball competition today at Hull University, showing off all they have learnt in their P.E. sessions this term.

No doubt, next term will be just as busy, as our year 6s prepare for, and complete their Statutory Assessments Tests (SATs). They have been working so hard throughout the year, and some have even given extra time after school to consolidate their learning!

As always, I want to thank you for your continued support. For those of you that completed a Parent Survey, thanks for your feedback – it has been both useful and positive. You are key stakeholders in our school community and we do make changes on the back of what you say. For example, you told us last year that there was not enough communication from the school, so we changed to a weekly newsletter as well as making better use of our social media platforms. You also told us that you would like to be more involved in school life, so we have planned many more parent sessions this year than previously (and there are more to come in the summer term).

I have been looking at the most recent feedback from the surveys that have been returned to far and, despite there being some recommendations for improvements (which we will be exploring) 100% of those that completed the survey said they would recommend our school to another parent. This is the first time that all of those responding have said this, and makes me feel extremely proud to be leading such a great school.

We hope you have a great Easter (with hopefully better weather) and we will see children back on Tuesday 18th April.

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Attendance, Punctuality and Term-time Holidays



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

Our whole-school attendance continues to cause concern, with it currently standing well below our target of 96%. Whilst we understand that children can pick up illnesses quickly, they do not need to stay off school for headaches, tiredness or a feeling of sickness. In most cases, these symptoms disappear when they are in school and busy learning. Where we feel your child is too unwell to be at school, we will always contact you to come and collect them.

In addition, we are seeing an increase in the number of children turning up late to school. Our doors open at 8:45am and close at 8:55am (which is the official start of our school day). Children who are late, miss out on valuable learning, as we teach our phonics and reading sessions at the start of the school day.

If your child's attendance is causing concern, you will receive a letter from the school inviting you in for a meeting, to discuss what support can be put in place to help your child attend more often.

Finally, it is our Trust policy that **all** requests for term-time holidays are unauthorised. Where the time off equates to 5 days or more, the school will refer the case to the Local Authority, who will decide whether to issue a penalty notice or not. There are only 3 exceptional circumstances where we may not refer to the Local Authority and these are listed on the holiday request form, which you can obtain from the school office.

Attendance

Whole-school weekly attendance	92.8%
Class with the best attendance	1/2CF – 98.2% 😊
<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 for the next two weeks

Tuesday 18 th April	Children return to school
Thursday 27 th April	Year 3 Paintbox trip (for those that did not attend last time)

All of our key dates for this term are on our website here:

<https://dorchesterprimary.org.uk/calendar/>

Messages

Leavers and Joiners

Today, we say goodbye to Miss Townsend, who begins her maternity leave. She is planning on returning to school around Christmas time and I am sure you will join me in wishing her well with the imminent birth of her second child. This week, Mrs Lucas has been working alongside Miss Townsend, and she will be covering her maternity leave. Mrs Lucas is a very experienced early years teacher, who is looking forward to joining us and working with our wonderful children.

In other news.....**CONGRATULATIONS** to Miss Wilmott and Miss Wainwright (and their respective partners), who have also had news that they will be expecting their first child. Miss Wainwright will be back with us after Easter, having spent the last 9 months on secondment at Westcott Primary School.

This now means that Mrs Jackson, Miss Townsend, Mrs Hamer, Mrs Fisher and Miss Wilmott, as well as Miss Wainwright, will all be on maternity leave for part of, or most of next year. We are currently recruiting for their replacements and will update you once we have appointed. This will be a lot of change for our school all at once, but I am confident that with the systems we have in place and with the support of the leadership team, we will continue to offer stability and a good education for our children.

What's been happening in school this week?

EYFS

In Phonics, we have been reading longer words using the 'chunking' method. We are also practicing 'blending in our heads' and are becoming more fluent readers because of this!

In Maths, we have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes. We have been discussing their properties and have used these shapes to make pictures and repeating patterns.

In Literacy/Topic, we have been learning all about Easter and have made Easter lists and Easter crafts.

This week, we also invited parents in for an outdoor Stay and Play session. We had so much fun playing with our new resources in our newly developed areas!

Our parents also worked hard to help make a start on our new wildflower garden and planting areas - thanks so much for your help!



Year 1/2



Year 1 and 2 had a fabulous time at Yorkshire Wildlife Park this week, despite the weather! Whilst we were there we were part of a Science lesson all

about categorising different animals based on whether they had fur, scales or feathers. We also had the chance to hold lots of interesting animals such as cockroaches and snakes.

In writing we have started a recount all about our trip. We have been thinking about writing in the first person to recount details.

In Geography we have completed our unit and have been comparing our local area to Freetown in Sierra Leone, looking specifically at the human and physical features.

In ICT we have been learning all about digital painting and transferring our art skills to the iPads and creating our own digital animals.

Year 3/4



Year 3/4 have continued with writing their suspense narrative and wrote their next plot point. They had an experience day where they brought in a comfort from home

that they have on a night time whilst thinking about how Lucy (the main character) would have felt when

Year 5

It has been another busy week for year 5, who have loved starting our swimming sessions at Ennerdale. The children have worked really hard in the sessions and have shown perseverance and bravery while trying to learn new skills - the teachers have been very proud of them!

While at school, we have completed our statistics unit in maths and identified how we can draw and interpret tables and graphs. Furthermore, we have looked at the Easter story in detail, identifying why

<p>she heard the scratching and scraping noises in the walls. This inspired the children to come up with vocabulary through the lens of feeling.</p> <p>In RE, they have learnt about forgiveness and how this links to the Easter story and why it is important to forgive others like Jesus did.</p>	<p>this is an important event in the Christian calendar. The year 5 team wish you a happy Easter and enjoy the break!</p>
Year 6	Hive
<p>In Reading this week, we have continued our focus on finding evidence that suggests actions or feelings for characters to enable us to answer inference style questions. We have continued to read our key text – ‘Cogheart’ – and have been introduced to the character Anna Quinn. We have started our new genre in Writing, which is romance, and have created a mind map to describe the character Malcolm, who we all agreed wasn’t the happiest of people!</p> <p>We have also looked at a range of arithmetic and reasoning questions for our SATs preparation and have concluded our ‘invasion games’ topic in PE.</p>	<p>This week in the Hive we have been getting ready for Easter celebrations. We have made some special Easter buns for the children to take home and they enjoyed melting the chocolate and decorating their buns.</p> <p>The children have made amazing progress with their speech and language interventions this term and have worked really hard on their communication skills.</p> <p>Next term our topic book will be ‘Jack and the Bean Stalk’. This week, we have been painting our hands green and making hand prints to turn into a bean stalk for our class display board.</p> <p>Have a lovely Easter break.</p>

First Week Back Menu				
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Homemade Ham and Cheese Pizza with potato wedges	All Day Breakfast	Various pasta bakes	Chicken Dinner with potatoes and vegetables	Fish Friday with chips and peas/beans
Homemade Margherita Pizza (V)	As above with vegetarian sausage (V)	Beans on Toast (V)	Quorn fillet (V)	Vegetable nuggets (V)
Plus, a selection of sandwiches (ham, cheese or tuna) and jacket potatoes (tuna, cheese or beans)				