

Dorchester Primary School

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week 31 - 19th May 2023

Message from Mr Mills

It is great to finally feel the weather warming up and the sun shining – it always makes us feel more positive.

Our hard work has continued this week in school, with our year 2 children taking part in their SAT tests. Their teachers have told me how amazing they have been and how much effort they have put in. They really have made us proud!

We have spent today and yesterday interviewing for teachers to replace staff going on maternity leave next year, and the field of applicants was very strong – it was difficult to choose. Once we have confirmed teachers for classes next year, we will let you know, but this should be after half-term.

For the next four weeks, our weekly celebration assembly will be moving to a Monday afternoon as we have a dance/drama workshop using the hall space on Fridays.

We still have places available in our nursery from September. If you (or anybody you know of) has a child who has already turned 3, please contact our school office for further information. We offer both 15 and 30-hour places.

Have a great weekend!

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Parent Pay

The vast majority of you are now signed up to Parent Pay, where we you are able to pay for school dinners and visits. Not only this, we use this platform to send out information, including letters and newsletters. If you have not yet accessed the system for your child, please pop into the office and request your login details – the office staff will be able to help with set up if needed.







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

Attendance			
Whole-school weekly attendance	89% – very worrying!		
Class with the best attendance	5EP with 95%		
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.

Upcoming events for the next two weeks

Monday 22nd May

Whole school 'Growing and Changing' week

Wednesday 24th May

KS1 Quadkids (for 8 children)

Thursday 25th May

Year 6 5-a-side football tournament (4:00-6:00pm)

Friday 26th May

Children break off for half-term

Wednesday 7th June

Children return

KS2 Quadkids (32 children)

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

Messages

School Uniform

I am sorry that I am having to repeat the same messages almost weekly regarding school uniform and jewellery. The office staff have sent out a copy of our uniform and jewellery policy to all parents and carers either via Parent Pay or hard copy. Please take the time to read this policy and ensure that your children are coming to school in the current uniform and without jewellery. We understand that there may be the odd occasion where children may not be in uniform e.g. if they have damaged it, but this should only be short-term. We are seeing children attend school in tracksuits, jogging bottoms, sports t-shirts and inappropriate shorts, which is not in line with our policy.

We have a bank of spare school uniform, which we will issue to children who turn up to school in clothing that is outside of our policy. Teachers will also be making telephone calls home to speak to any parents of children who regularly do not attend in the correct uniform. Thank you for your support with this matter.

What's been happening in school this week?				
EYFS	Year 1/2			
This week in nursery, the children have learnt the new sound 'qu' in phonics. In maths we have been comparing sizes. In literacy the children have enjoyed learning the new nursery ryhme 'Tommy thumb'. The children have enjoyed playing outside this week and have loved seeing their seeds they planted, growing!	In year 1 this week we have been revisiting the alternative ways of reading the graphemes 'igh' /i/spider, 'ai' /a/ chasing, 'oa' /ow/ follow and 'yoo' /u/ music. Ask your child to think of other words with these graphemes. We also reviewed the tricky words two, eye, thought, through and friend.			
In reception, in phonics, we have been working hard to read words including the suffixes 'ing' and 'es' – such as 'lightning' and 'wishes'. In Maths, we have been using the language 'first, then, now' to tell addition stories and in Literacy we have used story boxing to re-write	In year 1 the children have been applying their phonic knowledge to write phonetically decodable words accurately as well as common exception words that have already been taught. The children have continued to write dictated sentences about our text			



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

our core story Jack and the Beanstalk in only 4 sentences! Our enthusiasm for independent writing has been fantastic this week!

The Last Wolf'. Towards the end of the week, the children sequenced the story and started to write their own independent narratives.

In maths we continued to learn about multiplication and division. We consolidated our learning of the 2s, 5s and 10s and used this new learning to create arrays.

Year 2 have worked exceptionally hard all week completing their SATs papers. They have completed 2 maths, 2 reading and a spelling and a grammar paper. We are so proud of their resilience, stamina and effort.

This week the children have put their sculpting skills into practice, and they have created their own lighthouse tile, taking inspiration from the modern impressionistic artist Leonid Afremov. We can't wait to paint them next week.

Year 3/4

Year 5

their next D&T unit where they This week in Year 5 we have

Year 3/4 have started their next D&T unit where they have explored where food comes from and then looking at a balanced diet and designing a sandwich which includes protein, carbohydrate, dairy and vegetables.

In spelling, they have continued to learn homophones and in reading, they have continued to read their core text 'Beetle Boy' and make inferences.

In maths, year 4 have finished calculating and problemsolving using money and have moved onto time. Year 3 have continued their learning in maths on time and have been learning years, months, weeks and days as well as hours in a day and sequencing key events using AM and PM. This week in Year 5 we have continued to enjoy reading The Haunting of Aveline Jones, the children have had the pleasure of being taught by Mrs Tee and have thoroughly enjoyed her reading lessons! The children have been honing our inference skills and have begun to start making their own inferences based on what they have read. In Maths we are currently learning

about lines of symmetry and reflections of shapeswhich the children have excelled at. We are currently looking at the Mayans in History and learning about why they were successful and how they celebrated different events.

Year 6 Hive







"Working together in a safe and inclusive environment, to develop creative, disciplined and aspirational pupils." In Y6 we have started our Leavers' Play practice this week! Children have received their parts and we would be grateful if you could help them to learn their lines.

We have also started Our 'Ancient Greece' topic by looking at the chronology of the Ancient Greek timeline. We then compared the lives of men and women in Ancient Greece and then compared the lives of Athenian & Spartan women which helped us to decide whether we would have preferred to be a woman of Athens or Sparta. Some of the children were lucky enough to work with a poet, who worked with us to memorise a poem before performing it to the rest of the group. Those children who didn't work with the poet were lucky enough to work with Mrs Van Der Walt looking at the Fibonacci sequence before creating some artwork!

In the Hive this week we have been so busy!

We have been exploring 2D shapes, identifying some everyday objects and matching them.

In phonics our grapheme of the week has been 'p', our new words have been 'penguin', 'pizza', 'peg' and 'pencil'!

We have been crafting magic beans to finish off our Jack and the Beanstalk display.

We have also been exploring our new sensory dark tent and colour changing lights!

Our SaLT interventions have been really successful this week, we are making such positive strides in our communication skills

Next Week's Menu					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Chicken curry with rice and naan bread	Beef burger with criss-cross potatoes	Hot chicken strip wrap with herby diced potatoes	Sausages with mashed potato and veggies	Fish Friday with chips and peas/beans	
Cheesy pasta bake (V)	Veggie burger (V)	Hot veggie nugget wrap (V)	Veggie sausage (V)	Fishless fingers (V)	
Plus, a selection of sandwiches (ham, cheese or tuna) and jacket potatoes (tuna, cheese or beans)					