



Dorchester Primary School

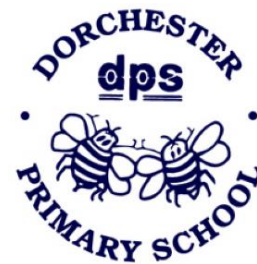
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Headteacher – Mr S. Mills BA (Hons), NPQH, NPQEL
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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week 17 – 12th January 2024

Message from Mr Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new term! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and managed to find some time to relax.

It's been an incredibly busy first week back at school and our children have done us proud – settling quickly back into routines and engaging in their learning.

Our extra-curricular clubs have started this week and they have proven a great hit with children. We still have places available at clubs so if your child is interested, please let the office know and we can add them to the list. Extra-curricular activities are an important part of our school-life, and they allow children to build positive relationships beyond the school day.

This half-term, our team of adults will be working on developing our 'Personal Development' curriculum, ensuring that it is contextually driven and meets the needs of our children in preparing them for life beyond the school gates.

There is lots going on this term so please keep on checking Dojo for class and school updates.

Finally, the forecast is for the weather to get even colder over the next few days so please make sure your children come to school in appropriate clothing and with a suitable outdoor coat.

Have a great weekend!

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Attendance

With the start of a new year, we will be focussing on our drive to improve our overall attendance and the attendance of individual children who are persistently absent. Over the coming weeks, all persistently absent children will be monitored by a senior leader within school. This member of staff will be the identified contact point between home and school and will check in with those children on a regular basis, making calls/visits



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

home where needed.

We currently have around sixty children who are classed as 'persistently absent' i.e. their attendance is below 90%. This means that for the Autumn Term, they missed more than seven days of school.

In order to give our children the best chance of success, they need to be in school regularly. Every day they are absent, is learning lost, which some find it difficult to catch up on. Please help us by ensuring your child comes to school one time, every day. Thank you.

Attendance

Whole-school weekly attendance

96.3% - VERY PROUD!! 😊

Class with the best attendance

4T with 99% 😊

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

Thursday 18th January

Speak out, stay safe, workshops

Friday 19th January

PTA coffee morning (9:00am) and afternoon (2:00pm)

Wednesday 24th January

Kurling Event for some children

Thursday 25th January

Speak out, stay safe, workshops

Monday 29th January

Bikeability (some year 5s)

Tuesday 30th January

Bikeability (some year 5s)

Wednesday 31st January

Bikeability (some year 5s)

Y3/4 Dodgeball event (after school)

Thursday 1st February

Bikeability (some year 5s)

Friday 2nd February

Bikeability (some year 5s)

*All of our key dates for this term are on our website or you can find them on Dojo
<https://dorchesterprimary.org.uk/calendar/>*

Messages

Nursery Places

There has been some confusion in the past about how the nursery provision on our site works.

Our own school nursery is completely separate to the private Brightstarts nursery, which leases building space from us to operate their own provision.

We accept children into our nursery from the term after their third birthday and we would always encourage parents who are thinking of applying for a reception place for their child, to send their child to our school nursery. This will support your child to learn routines and become familiar with the environment, prior to their full-time start. We offer both 15-hour and 30-hour places (for those eligible) so to find out more, please contact our school office, who will be more than happy to help. You will also often find that sending your child to a school nursery works out far cheaper than what you would pay a private nursery.

What's been happening in school this week?

EYFS

The nursery children have returned from the Christmas break keen and eager. They have all settled back into the nursery routines quickly. We have welcomed five new starters and I am proud to say that the children have shown kindness and empathy to help settle them in. This week in phonics we have learnt the phoneme 'm'. The children are becoming more confident in hearing the sounds at the beginning of words. In literacy we are learning the rhyme 'Down at the station.' We had to think of actions that we could perform as we sang the rhyme. In maths the children have shown good understanding of positional language and enjoyed placing their animal in different places around the classroom. The afternoon children have enjoyed learning about things that are the same, activities included sorting object that are the same and matching colours. The children have enjoyed a selection of stories this week, showing good listening skills and responded well to questioning and enjoy group discussions. Keep it up nursery, you are amazing.

Reception have had a great first week back and as usual have been very busy! There have been a few changes to the timetable this term, including the introduction of Drawing Club, which has been extremely exciting. This week it has revolved around the book 'The Hairy Toe' by Daniel Postgate and has really fired up imaginations to create some amazing drawings. It's only open for 10 minutes each morning, so if they want to join in that day, they have to be quick! In Maths this week they have been learning about the concept of zero and thinking about different ways zero can be represented along with alternative words to mean zero. They have had some fun continuing the maths outside, working in pairs to write numbers 5-0 in chalk and then find the corresponding amount of objects

Year 1/2

In writing this week children in Year 1 have been applying their phonic knowledge to write sentences to describe what they did on Christmas Day. They thoroughly enjoyed talking about their favourite presents and toys with their friends! Year 2 have started a new unit writing a diary entry about 'The Great Fire of London' In maths Year 1 have been working with numbers to 20. They have been using the words 'more than' or 'less/fewer than' to compare numbers within 20 and have used their knowledge to compare and order three numbers from smallest to greatest. Year 2 have been learning how to divide by 2,5 and 10. They have enjoyed solving lots of division problems too! In topic we have started a new history unit, 'How has life changed in Bransholme since it was first built?' The children have really enjoyed looking at ariel photographs from the past and present and can talk about how Bransholme has grown as a settlement.

Year 3/4

Year 5

<p>What a wonderful first week back! Year 3 and 4 have got stuck back in and have thoroughly enjoyed starting the first chapter of our new book called "Cosmo". Why not ask your child about some of the funny things Cosmo has said and done already!</p> <p>In maths Year 4 are working hard to read and interpret bar charts and year 3 have been converting lengths from cm to mm and cm to m. In art we have had a go at collaging and in Geography we have recapped the oceans and key countries.</p>	<p>It has been a busy beginning to this term in year 5 and we've made a great start to the year already. In maths, we have completed our first lessons about fractions, looking at the link between division and fractions and how we can write them in proper, improper and mixed number form. Our new book, The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day, has already got us questioning what is real and we have become intrigued in the mystery of her birthday morning surprise. In writing, we have already completed plot point one, using dramatic dashes to add extra information to our sentences. Finally, we have been focussing on our value of respect this week and have discussed how this includes the way we treat our environment and equipment at school and understanding personal space and boundaries.</p>
Year 6	Hive
<p>In Y6 we have introduced our new genre in Writing - a newspaper report. We have looked at a WAGOLL report and considered the structure and features of the report before writing our own headline and strapline. We have also introduced our new core book - Cogheart - for our guided reading sessions. After analysing the front cover in great detail, we made our predictions for the book. We have read the prologue and chapter one and have been introduced to Malkin and Lily.</p> <p>In Maths, we have recapped our learning from the arithmetic paper so far and are ready to move onto our new topic, which is ratio, on Monday. In Science, we have looked at how to classify animals based on whether they vertebrates or invertebrates before classifying them further based on the animal classifications and whether they are a carnivore, omnivore or herbivore.</p>	<p>The children have settled back into the class routine well this week, following visual support and timetables.</p> <p>In phonics we are focusing on the grapheme 'k', our core words to learn are ketchup and kite.</p> <p>Our story for the term is 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and this week children have enjoyed listening to the story and using the teddy bear to help act it out.</p>

Next Week's Menu				
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Pizza served with potato wedges	Roast chicken and trimmings	All Day Breakfast	CHANGE OF MENU	Fish Friday with chips
Margherita pizza (V)	Vegetable slice (V)	All Day Breakfast with vegetarian sausage (V)	Chicken Goujons with chips and beans.	Homemade cheese and onion pasty (V)
			Veggie nuggets (V)	
Plus, a selection of sandwiches (ham, cheese or tuna) and jacket potatoes (tuna, cheese or beans)				