



Dorchester Primary School

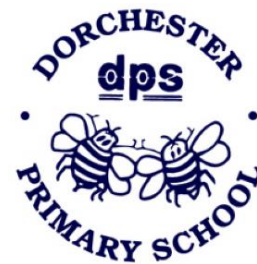
Dorchester Road
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www.dorchesterprimary.org.uk

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



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week 21 – 9th February 2024

Message from Mr Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have reached the end of a very busy (and short) half-term. As a school, we have suffered from lots of illness this half-term, meaning that our whole-school attendance has really declined.

If you are unsure about how long you should keep your children off school for common illnesses, you can find information here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infectious-diseases-schools-and-other-childcare-settings/how-long-should-you-keep-your-child-off-school-checklist-poster-text-version>.

Today, we sadly say goodbye to Miss Steels, who has worked in our EYFS for over 18 years. Miss Steels will be moving to a similar post on another HCAT school closer to her home. I am sure many of your children will have been taught by Miss Steels when they were in nursery and reception – she has had a positive impact on so many over the years. We thank her for all of her hard work and wish her well for the future. We also say goodbye to Miss Hamilton, who has been working as a lunchtime supervisor at our school for over eight years, making sure our children are safe during lunchtime. Again, we thank her and wish her luck.

We have appointed Mrs Powdrell who will begin working in foundation stage after half-term. In addition, Miss Garrod will be joining our lunchtime team after half-term.

We hope you have a wonderful, restful break and look forward to seeing our children back on **Tuesday 20th February**.

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Class Dojo

We now have over 95% of our families signed up to Class Dojo, which is fantastic news. This is now our quickest and most used means of communicating with parents/carers so if you are yet to download the app and sign-up, please speak to our office staff, who will be more than happy to help.

Whilst it is an excellent way of communication between the school and home, please remember (and respect) that teachers have their own families, so will not be expected reply to any messages outside of school time.



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Attendance	
Whole-school weekly attendance	90.2% - well below our target of 96% ☹️
Class with the best attendance	5PJ with 95.5%
<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	
Tuesday 20 th February	Children return to school
<i>All of our key dates for this term are on our website or you can find them on Dojo</i> https://dorchesterprimary.org.uk/calendar/	

Messages
<p><u>School Visits</u></p> <p>We have several visits coming up next half-term, including year 4s overnight stay in Edinburgh and year 5s visit to London. If your child is in one of these year groups and you are yet to give permission/make payment, please ensure this is done as soon as possible.</p> <p>Swimming for both year 5 and some year 4s takes place next half-term as well. Your child should have had information about this. As swimming is part of the National Curriculum and children must cover the curriculum content, it is not an option to not attend. If you or your child are worried about anything in relation to swimming, please speak to a member of staff in those year groups, who can provide further information and reassurance.</p>

What's been happening in school this week?
<p>Nursery</p> <p>In phonics this week we have been learning the "C" and "K" sound, sounding out and talking about all different words that start with these sounds. In Maths we have practiced counting, using passengers to count onto the bus which the children have enjoyed doing in both carpet time and at the maths table during continuous provision. The children have enjoyed learning a different version of the rhyme Hickory Dickory Dock in Literacy this week, performing the actions alongside the adults. The role-play area has reflected the children's interests this week, we've had baking cakes for afternoon teas, parties, birthday hats and lots of singing using items from the creative area to extend their play in the role-play area. The role-play area is also where there has been lots of discussions about our family photos, the children really enjoy looking at their own photos and talking with their peers about their families, they seem very surprised at seeing staff members families outside of the school environment!</p> <p>The children continue to enjoy choosing their chatter-packs to take home each week and staff have had lovely video and written feedback of how much they're enjoying using these at home. In the provision the children have had the choice to make cards for Valentine's Day and have enjoyed learning all about Pancake Day for the upcoming holidays next week. Have a lovely half term everyone!</p>
<p>Reception</p> <p>In Drawing Club this week, we have been learning the story of The Enormous Turnip. A favourite part was drawing the 'Turnip Zombie' and he really looked terrifying! The magic code the children thought of did all kinds of crazy things such as turning the zombie into a rubber duck or making him laugh so much his teeth fell</p>



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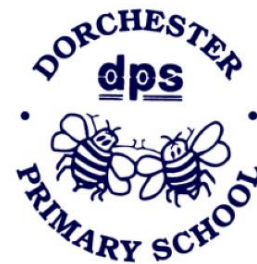
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out!

In maths, they have been focusing on adding two groups of numbers together to find a total. They have used strategies such as representing the first number, using fingers, and putting it into their heads before counting on. For some this was a bit tricky, and they preferred an alternative method of using the number line. The children are getting so much better at subitising now, which is brilliant. Their number recognition is also improving without having to start at 1 to find a given number.

In phonics, it has been revision week. They have been consolidating all they have learnt so far, and so much improvement has been made. Their blending and reading has come on leaps and bounds this half term, and it so wonderful to see the pleasure they take from being able to read and for some, write CVC words independently. Well done Reception.

Please keep reading with your child to help their confidence grow. It is our expectation that you read your child's reading book with them 3x each week. They are so proud to be able to read and really want to share their achievement with you.

Finally, don't forget to sign up to Densholme Farm – see message on Dojo – this is a wonderful opportunity for your child and day they'll want to talk about for a very long time.

Thank you for all your support this half term; enjoy the break

Year 1/2

It has been a very busy week in KS1!

In writing, children in Year 1 have been exploring different adjectives to describe parts of the story 'Hugless Douglas' and included their favourites in their own writing.

Year 2 have been creating their own plan to complete their work on a diary extract re-telling the events of 'The Great Fire of London.'

In maths Year 1 have continued working with numbers to 20 – using counting back and their knowledge of the part-whole model to solve subtraction problems.

In art lessons all of the children have really enjoyed using collage to create a picture of a flower. They used their knowledge of light and dark tones used in Georgia O'Keefe's work when selecting their colours and demonstrated real pride in their own creations.

In computing they have continued to develop their skills in digital photography and have enjoyed exploring the different effects they can use to change their photographs.

As well as this, both year groups have taken part in practise tests this week.

Year 1 have been trying their very best during their practise phonics screening check and have done a great job!



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Year 2 have been working really hard completing their SATS practise papers in maths and reading and have demonstrated lots of resilience and self-belief!

Well done everyone – we are really proud of you!

Year 3/4

Year 3 and 4 have worked hard this week to write the next chapter of "The Wisp". We are still in the editing phase but cannot wait to publish them!

Maths has thrown more word problems at us this week and Year 4 have tackled some tricky concepts such as simplifying fractions.

In science unexpected things happened! Plants grew which we didn't expect to grow. Why not ask your child what we have seen so far! All children have completed their final collage in art and in P.E we enjoyed a thoroughly exciting play on the game "hungry hippos" which required us to work well as part of a team.

Year 5

Another great week in Year 5.

- The last group went out for Bikeability with nearly all passing level 1 and/or level 2. Even those who first started to ride a bike last week got another go at passing level 1. Well done Year 5 – such super resilience and learning new skills.
- The last of the groups worked on their fractions – subtracting and multiplying.
- In History we have finally finished our crime and punishment units exploring Georgian, Victorian and the modern justice system
- Then Wednesday afternoon was everyone's favourite day as we got to work with the parents (thank you so much to those who came along) at making our worry monsters. They all look fantastic.

Have a great half term. Please remember that swimming will start the second week back for some children. London is coming up in March.

If you would like your child to go on the residential but haven't yet paid the deposit please do so, so they can secure a place.

Year 6

This week, we've completed our second mock SATs week in Y6 and we've been really pleased with the majority of the children's effort and attitude – we've seen some good progress made from our previous mock SATs!

Away from SATs, we've completed our first draft of our newspaper report where we've chosen a different fairy tale or film character and written about their crimes.

We also had an in-depth discussion around staying safe online as part of 'Internet Safety Day'.

Hive

This week in the Hive we have been exploring our core story 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. We have recalled key parts of the story together and had a try at writing and tracing some of the words at table work.

In maths we have been consolidating our understanding of numbers, matching pictorial representations of quantities, to numerals.

In phonics this week we have introduced digraph 'ck' with some of our key words to remember being sock,



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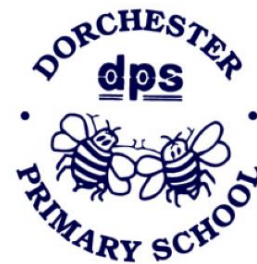
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lock, tick.

First Week Back Menu

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
	Sausages with mashed potato	Chicken curry with rice and naan	Roast beef with Yorkshire pudding	Fish Friday with chips
	Vegetarian sausages (V)	Vegetable curry (V)	Vegetable crumble (V)	Homemade Hull Pattie (V)
Plus, a selection of sandwiches (ham, cheese or tuna) and jacket potatoes (tuna, cheese or beans)				



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