



Dorchester Primary School

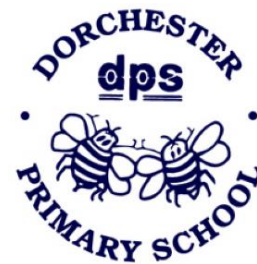
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www.dorchesterprimary.org.uk

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



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week 5 – 6th October 2023

Message from Mr Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been another busy week at Dorchester. The vast majority of our children are now really settled into routines and are demonstrating the high expectations we have of them. If you talk to your child about our 5 school values, they should have a good understanding of what they mean and how we show them in school.

On Fridays, we have made some changes to our curriculum so that our children can really focus on developing their social awareness and self-regulation skills – skills we know they will need in order to be successful in life. We have done this due to the increasing number of children who are finding it difficult to manage changes, accept responsibility and understand consequences. We are hopeful that by dedicating more time to this really important area, children will be able to utilise these skills in their learning and play.

Have a great weekend.

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Attendance

Since returning to school from the summer holidays, our whole-school attendance has been disappointingly low. We have not yet met our target of 96% in any of the weeks we have been back and that is even before the winter illnesses kick in.

We want our children to make the most of all of the opportunities available to them at school but if they are not here, then they miss out on these. In addition, when they are absent for longer periods of time, they quickly fall behind in their learning and often find it hard to catch-up to where their peers are.

To put it into context, a child whose attendance is 90% at the end of the year, has missed around 95 hours of learning. If their attendance is no better than 90% during the whole of their primary schooling, then this equates to 665 hours of lost learning – this is learning that cannot be gained back.

Please help us by ensuring your child is at school on time, every day.



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

Attendance	
Whole-school weekly attendance	95.8% – SO CLOSE TO OUR TARGET OF 96%
Class with the best attendance	2FT with 99.1% 😊
<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 10 th October	5EP Pizza Express Visit
Thursday 19 th October	PTA Coffee Morning
Friday 20 th October	Flu Vaccinations (whole-school)
Wednesday 25 th October	Halloween Disco (KS1 = 4:00–5:00pm, KS2 = 5:00–6:00pm)
Thursday 26 th October	Children break off for half-term
Monday 6 th November	Children return to school
<i>All of our key dates for this term are on our website or you can find them on Dojo https://dorchesterprimary.org.uk/calendar/</i>	

Messages
<p><u>Parent Forum</u></p> <p>A couple of years ago, we established a ‘parent forum’, which was designed to allow you, as parents and carers, to learn more about the work of the school and share with senior leaders any positives or concerns you had. Sadly, we had to stop these when the number of parents attending dropped too low. We would like to re-establish these as we think they are an important way for use to share our work with you, as well as listen to your ideas for the school. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday 21st November at 2:00pm at Dorchester. Please put this date in your diary, and if you are free, come along, have a drink and biscuit, and learn more about our work.</p> <p><u>Parents & Teachers Association (PTA)</u></p> <p>Mrs Van der Walt is also re-establishing our PTA, which hasn’t been in place for a number of years now. This is another way you can get involved and support the school. If you are keen to be involved, the first meeting is on Thursday 19th October at 9:00am. The PTA is designed to support with school events and fundraising, and no doubt some of you will be able to really support us in this area.</p>

What’s been happening in school this week?	
EYFS	Year 1/2
This week in Nursery phonics, the children have been using their listening and speaking skills. We have played a memory game with objects that start with different sounds and went on a listening walk, the children heard lots of sounds such as doors squeaking, children laughing, birds, car engines, wind blowing and many more. In literacy the children recapped the rhymes ‘Sing a song of sixpence’ and ‘five fat sausages’. In maths the children have been looking at patterns all	<p>This week in maths year 2 have been learning all about column addition. In year 1 children have been looking at subtraction by counting back and exploring number lines. They have also used their own subtraction stories to help them write number sentences.</p> <p>In art, we have looked at the artist Vincent Van Gogh and talked about his techniques. We have enjoyed</p>



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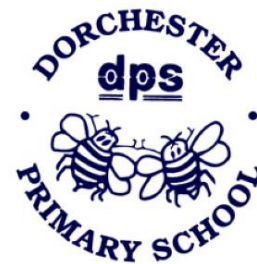
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<p>around us and enjoyed going on a pattern walk around the school and school grounds. The children continue to amaze us with their enthusiasm to learn.</p> <p>Reception this week have been focusing on pattern in maths and working out what makes a pattern, and how this can be changed into a different pattern simply by rotating an object. It has also been linked into our theme of Autumn through the use of natural materials. In the creative area they have been learning about colour mixing, to create autumnal colours to paint their leaves and then pattern with them. We have discussed why some leaves have yellow, red and brown on them while others are still green. In Literacy we have made up our own thriller counting story and are busy practicing it so it can go on dojos!</p>	<p>looking at his artwork and are excited to be creating our own pieces of work influenced by him.</p> <p>We have enjoyed exploring different everyday materials in science and finding out how we can change an object by squashing it or stretching it.</p>
Year 3/4	Year 5
<p>Year 3 & 4 have been working hard I'm history learning all about the Triple Trawler Tragedy by conducting research using primary and secondary sources.</p> <p>In maths, they have been focusing on subtracting with year 3 using 3-digit numbers and year 4 using 4-digit numbers.</p> <p>In writing, they have worked extremely hard to complete part of their independent write of the true story of the 3 little pigs, writing about the 'innocent' wolf and his unfortunate sneezing mishaps!</p> <p>Within RE, they have moved onto learning all about Judaism and their places of worship and exploring life as a Jewish child.</p>	<p>This week we have delved even deeper into 'The Nowhere Emporium' and the revelations that Lucien Silver shared with Daniel about the shop.</p> <p>In maths, we have been working on our column addition and subtraction methods. For writing, we are putting all our work on writing poems into practise by writing our own independent poems.</p> <p>In afternoons, we continue to practise our drawing skills in our dragon eye art unit. It's been amazing to see how engaged the children are and we have loved seeing the pictures children have drawn at home. We have also been looking at the note B on the recorder and enjoyed playing along to a tune.</p> <p>Polite reminder next Tuesday 5EP – Miss Ede's class will be going to Beverley for the pizza express and geography trip.</p>
Year 6	Hive



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<p>In Y6 this week, we have looked at common multiples and discussed 'Maths VIPs' to help us recognise multiples of given numbers – for example, all multiples of 5 end in a 5 or 0.</p> <p>In Writing, we have completed our independent pieces of writing, bringing Marty's story full circle as he reclaims his paradise! The adults in Y6 are extremely proud of the writing the children have produced and the children are in the process of 'publishing' their pieces! In reading, we have applied the skills we have learnt so far to a new short sci-fi extract, 'Dragon Pearl'.</p> <p>In PE, we looked at how to use passing and dribbling to beat a defender and in Science we have started our new topic: Electricity. We have recapped our previous learning, introduced new vocabulary and introduced the scientific symbols.</p>	<p>This week in The Hive we have focused on the grapheme 'g', the children have practiced saying these words: 'glue', 'glasses' and 'goat'. They have done really well with these.</p> <p>Our nursery rhyme of the week is 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat'. The children have ordered the song through pictures. They have traced over words from the song during mark making lessons.</p> <p>In maths we have been focusing on quantities 1 to 5, the children have been matching the correct amount to the numeral through pictures and objects. Our number song of the week has been 5 speckled frogs, the children have used props to act out the song in small groups</p> <p>The children were all superstars on school photo day, we hope you loved their photo.</p>
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Next Week's Menu				
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Pizza served with potato wedges	Cottage pie with Yorkshire pudding	All Day Breakfast	Roast chicken and trimmings	Fish Friday with chips
Margherita pizza (V)	Quorn cottage pie (V)	All Day Breakfast with vegetarian sausage (V)	Vegetable slice (V)	Homemade cheese and onion pasty (V)
Plus, a selection of sandwiches (ham, cheese or tuna) and jacket potatoes (tuna, cheese or beans)				