



Dorchester Primary School

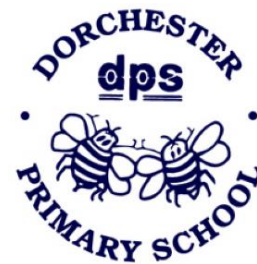
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www.dorchesterprimary.org.uk

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



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week 9 – 10th November 2023

Message from Mr Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an incredibly busy first week back! Children have settled well back into routines and are already producing work of a really high standard.

This week, I've had children come to my office to show off their work in R.E. and writing – very impressive!

We continue to have high expectations of our children – and the vast majority are rising to these, earning themselves lots of Dojo points as they go. For those that do not yet demonstrate our values and continue to disrupt the learning of others, we will continue to put appropriate consequences and sanctions in place.

School should be a safe and inclusive environment for all children, and we will not allow a small minority to spoil it for everybody else. You can support us by communicating regularly with your child's class teacher if you have any worries or concerns about your child – we are here to support.

From week beginning 20th November, we will be trialling our 'Walking Bus', led by Mrs Boothby and Mrs Gasparelli. I have sent out a separate letter with details of this.

Have a great weekend!

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Parent Consults

Next week is our parent consultation week where you get the chance to speak to your child's teacher(s) about their learning and progress. It is so important that you are kept up-to-date with how well your child is doing, so that you are able to support at home. If you have not already done so, please message your child's class teacher via DOJO to arrange an appointment.

Parent Behaviour

I am disappointed to be writing this but there have been a couple of instances recently where members of my



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team have been faced with rude and aggressive behaviour from parents. Whilst I appreciate there may be times where you are dissatisfied with something at school, there are appropriate ways that you can communicate these. Please refrain from raising your voice towards members of staff, especially when in the sight and hearing of children – this is not the example we want to set to them.

If you have a concern that you would like to make us aware of, or look into, then please ask for a quiet word with a member of staff and pass on your concerns in a respectful way. Thanks for your cooperation with this.

Attendance

Whole-school weekly attendance	93.7% – well below our target of 96%.
Class with the best attendance	Hive with 100% 😊

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

Monday 13 th November	Reception heights and weights checks
	Parent Consultations – HIVE
Tuesday 14 th November	Parent Consultations – 6TP, 5H, 5EP
Wednesday 15 th November	3/4P Trawling Trip
	Parent Consultations – 2FP, 1P, 1/2W
Thursday 16 th November	4R Trawling Trip
	Parent Consultation – 4R, 3/4P, 3N
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need Day

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

Scholastic Book Fair

As you will know from our communication with you, we will be holding a book fair next week from Tuesday to Friday. Children will have the opportunity to visit the fair and purchase books, if they wish. We don't have a price list for books but you will be able to see the prices on the back of the books when you attend. I have been informed that you will be able to pay with either cash or by card.

Term-Time Holidays

Just to remind parents/carers that **all** term-time holidays are **unauthorised** and, unless they meet one of the limited 'exceptional circumstances' may be referred to the Local Authority for fining if the absence lasts 5 or more days. It is important that children are in school every day so that they do not miss out on their education. Each day of absence means that children fall behind their peers and have to spend time 'catching up' when they return to school.

For any holiday absence, please complete a Leave of Absence form, which can be collected from the school office.



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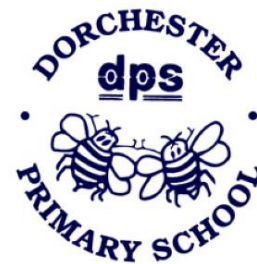
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What's been happening in school this week?

EYFS	Year 1/2
<p>The nursery children have enjoyed lots of learning opportunities this week. In phonics the children have been learning the phoneme 's'. We could hear the initial sound in the words sock, soap, sack, scissors and snake. We have also practiced segmenting and blending the words s-oa-p, s-a-ck, s-u-n, and s-o-ck. In maths we have been exploring representation of one and two. In literacy we have introduced our new rhyme 1,2,3,4,5, once I caught a fish alive, looking at rhyming words and alliteration. The children were excited to have a bonfire and toast marshmallows. This led to lots of discussion.</p> <p>Reception have had a good first week back with lots of chat around Bonfire night and the beautiful fireworks they had seen. This was explored in a variety of ways including explaining how Bonfire night started, which linked into the work we were doing about Parliament. The children soon got busy making rockets from cardboard tubes in the creative area and making bonfire pictures too, complete with fireworks. On Tuesday, Reception had their own bonfire party and toasted marshmallows on the fire, with the support of an adult. No surprises everyone wanted a second Marshmallow!!!</p> <p>In Literacy this week we read Winnie the Witch and talked about magic and magic spells. They then came up with a list of words that turned into an amazing magic spell that was then tested out. In Maths, they have created their own number books and consolidated what makes a number e.g. 4 can be made up of 3+1 or 2+2. They have also practiced their number formation.</p>	<p>In writing this week children in Year 1 have been applying their phonics knowledge to help them write labels that include adjectives. In Year 2 they have started their new unit of learning which is looking at a Christmas advert and they are going to create a narrative from this.</p> <p>In maths year 1 have been adding by making 10. Year 2 have started looking at addition by adding 3 numbers. They have been looking for number facts and patterns they already know to make this easier.</p> <p>In science KS1 have begun a new unit of learning looking at living things and their habitats. They enjoyed going on a walk around the school grounds looking for things that are alive and once lived.</p>
Year 3/4	Year 5
<p>In year 3 and 4 children have enjoyed continuing their narratives for Charlie and the Chocolate factory. This week Charlie received the golden ticket and was desperate to get home! In maths both Year 3 and 4</p>	<p>Fantastic first week back from Year 5. In maths they have been focussing on long multiplication which they really worked hard on showing self-belief and resilience. In reading we continue to delve into 'The</p>



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have continued to work on multiplication and division with word problems. In reading we are still enjoying Varjak Paw and analysing vocabulary within the text. We are desperate to find out if Varjak will ever find a dog! In science we started our new unit and we are learning all about rocks. This week we explored our school to find rocks and things made from rock. In P.E we started to learn the skills needed to play tennis and in computing we are using a programme called Scratch to work on our coding skills.	Nowhere Emporium' and have read about Parliament for our non-fiction text as it is parliament week. For this week we have also discussed British Values and even did a morning circle where we chose our own laws if we were to be the Prime Minister! In writing we have been using relative clauses within our work. We have also started our History unit on the Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasion and settlement of Britain exploring how power and conflict played a huge part of this period.
Year 6	Hive
We've had a very productive first week back after half-term in Y6. We have looked at dividing fractions by integers as well as how to find a fraction of an amount using a formula. In Reading, we have continued to look at our core text (The Island at the End of Everything) and have started to look at retrieval questions - the children have been incredibly successful in picking out the key information! In Writing, we have written the next paragraph of our horror narrative about something very peculiar to do with the time! Alongside our Writing unit, we have had a focus on grammar and in particular the difference between a phrase and a clause. In PE, we have started our new 'Street Dance' unit and have used movements to represent our graffiti 'tag'. In Geography we have looked at how to read six-figure grid references.	This week in the Hive we have been very busy roasting marshmallows on the bonfire in the EYFS outside area. The children did amazing following our safety rules. Our new story is the three little pigs, the children are recreating the story each week through writing and pictures. As a class we tried to build a house made of straw this week. The children enjoyed exploring the straw and finding the three little pigs hidden inside.

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)				