



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 22 – 23rd February 2024

Message from Mr Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a rather wet start to this half-term but despite that, our children have come back to school with positive attitudes.

This is another short half-term with lots going in, including several visits, and swimming lessons. As you know, one of our commitments at Dorchester is to provide our children with a range of experiences so that they get an understanding of the wider world and develop life-long skills to enable them to be positive and active citizens as they grow older.

Hopefully, the weather will start to improve over the coming weeks and we will be able to make more use of our outdoor space.

Have a great weekend!

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Uniform policy

We really need your support with ensuring our children attend school in the correct uniform, and in line with our policy. Our policy can be found on our website here: <https://dorchesterprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Uniform-and-Jewellery-October-2022.pdf>. We are also seeing lots of children coming to school with make-up on. Please be reminded that make-up should be removed prior to children coming to school. In addition, false nails and rings, bracelets or necklaces are not permitted. Thanks for your help with this.

Attendance

Whole-school weekly attendance

93.5% – improved from last week but not quite there!



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

Class with the best attendance	2FP with 98.9%
<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	
Monday 26th February	Swimming starts for some year 5 children (2 weeks)
Wednesday 28th February	Cricket Festival for some KS1 children (pm)
Monday 4th March	Year 3, year 4 and Hive parent consults (3:30-5:30pm)
Tuesday 5th March	Year 5E and year 6 parent consults (3:30-5:30pm)
Tuesday 5th March	Transition event at Winifred Holtby for some children (pm)
Tuesday 5th March	Y5/6 Dodgeball event at Winifred Holtby (3:45-5:30pm)
Wednesday 6th March	Year 4 overnight visit to Edinburgh
Wednesday 6th March	Year 1, year 2 and 5JP parent consults (3:30-5:30pm)
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
Thursday 7th March	Year 4 Edinburgh visit
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day (see Dojo message about the theme for this year)
Monday 11th March	Swimming starts for 4T (2 weeks)
Wednesday 13th March	Kurling Finals in Grimsby
Thursday 14th March	Year 5 London visit
<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>Local Police Officer</p> <p>Before half-term, our new link police officer, PC Jason Kemp, visited our school to introduce himself to the children. We visited all classrooms so that children could put a face to the name. They asked lots of sensible questions and were eager to know lots more.</p> <p>PC Kemp will be visiting Dorchester on a monthly basis to speak to children and provide that regular contact so that when they see him out and about in the local area, they can say 'hello'.</p>

What's been happening in school this week?
Nursery
<p>The children in Nursery have returned after the half-term break keen and eager and have shared what they have been up to with the adults. This week in phonics the children have learnt the phoneme 'e'. The children are becoming more confident in hearing the initial sounds in words and we practiced alliteration, saying two or more words that start with the same sound. We continue to practice counting in maths and the children show good skills in this and transfer them to their own learning. Hickory Dickory Dock is our rhyme in Literacy this week and we have put actions to each verse. The children love rhyme and singing and we have heard and seen children performing to each other. The rain and the puddles have been a favourite this week, leading to conversations about weather, seasons and knowledge and understanding of the world.</p>
Reception
<p>This week in reception we have been working hard to develop our imagination and storytelling language</p>



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together! We have created and acted out lots of stories; looking at characters and settings!

In phonics we have introduced new digraphs and trigraphs 'oa' and 'igh'

In maths we have been concentrating on numbers within 10 and creating groups of two with more/less language.

Year 1/2

In writing this week year 1 have gathered a variety of verbs and used their phonics knowledge to help construct sentences for their recount. Year 2 have been collecting a range of vocabulary and using their skills to construct sentences that create a calming atmosphere to the reader. We have been writing through different lenses to express our senses.

In maths this week year 1 have been solving different addition and subtraction word problems. Year 2 have been looking at length and using resources to help them measure objects they find around the classroom. In reading year 2 have continued completing comprehension tasks on the book 'Harry and the Poisonous Centipede.' We are really enjoying reading this book and looking at all the different vocabulary and exploring the meaning of new words.

KS1 have started a new unit in Design and Technology and have been busy designing a purse they are going to make later in the term. We have discussed what the meaning of textiles is and talked about materials and tools we will need to use.

Year 3/4

Year 3 and 4 have had a successful first week back. Year 4 are becoming experts at telling the time and Year 3 are becoming experts at counting and spending money!

In History we have started to learn about the Prehistoric Period and in science we have concluded what makes a plant successfully grow. We were very shocked to find that the plant in the cupboard had grown the most but had to think about why it was yellow and not green!

In D&T we have started our sewing unit. We will be practising running stitch, back stitch and cross stitch this half term.

Year 5

It has been a very busy start to Spring Term 2 in year 5 and the children have hit the ground running, finishing the Earth and Space science unit by learning why the moon looks to be different shapes throughout the month and what the phases of the moon are called.

In reading, we have continued to read about Maisie Day, and have started to see her repair her relationship with her sister. In writing, we have completed our first draft of our independent write to conclude the story One Small Step ready to edit and publish next week.



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In maths, we have started our new unit of work involving decimals and looking at how they link to fractions and percentages and also began a new unit in geography, learning about biomes around the world.

Year 6

We've had a very productive return in Y6. We have looked at different types of angles and how to measure angles using a protractor as well as lots of arithmetic work and some problem solving and reasoning work too!

In Writing, we have 'published' our newspaper report and started our new topic which is to write a postcard from our felon who has been caught and is now in jail! In Reading, we have looked at a range of texts completing retrieval and inference work. We enjoyed our first archery session as well!

Hive

This week in the Hive the children have settled back into routines well.

We have been working on regulation activities this week including exercise circuits and calming songs with bubbles and scarfs. The children really enjoy the exercise balls.

In maths this half-term we will be making our own repeating patterns and exploring our knowledge of 2D shapes.

In speech and language, the children have worked really hard identifying nouns and verbs. We have also worked on 2- and 3-word level sentences.

As always, the children have been busy in the creative area exploring lots of messy play and mark making opportunities using different writing resources.

Next Week's Menu

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Pizza served with potato wedges	Meatballs with mash and Yorkshire pudding	All Day Breakfast	Roast chicken and trimmings	Fish Friday with chips
Margherita pizza (V)	Quorn sausages (V)	All Day Breakfast with vegetarian sausage (V)	Vegetable slice (V) Veggie nuggets (V)	Homemade cheese and onion pasty (V)
Plus, a selection of sandwiches (ham, cheese or tuna) and jacket potatoes (tuna, cheese or beans)				