



Dorchester Primary School

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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 23 – 1st March 2024

Message from Mr Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, some of our year 5 children began their swimming sessions at Ennerdale. They have all made so much progress in such a short space of time and it has been great to see the pride they show when getting better each day!

Myself and Miss Short were lucky enough to take a small group of year 1 and 2 children to Ennerdale for a 'cricket festival' on Wednesday. They loved getting involved in all of the different activities on offer and really did us proud – demonstrating all of our values!

Next week is parent consult week – if you haven't already, please book an appointment with your child's class teacher – it is important that you know where they are up to in their learning and what you can do to help at home. In addition to this, we will again be handing out our parent questionnaires for you to complete on the evening. This is one way of us finding out what we do well, and what we may need to develop further, so I would encourage you to complete these. Feedback from these in the past have led to changes within school.

Have a great weekend!

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Free School Meals

Next week, we will again be circulating forms for parents to complete to check eligibility for free school meals. We encourage all parents to complete these forms and hand back to school for us to check your eligibility. Even if you think you may not qualify, we would still ask that the form be completed. Your child may not stay school lunches but the school receives additional funding for all children eligible for free school meals, which means more money that we have to spend on your children.

Currently, children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are automatically entitled to a free lunch so this may have put many of you actually applying. However, we do not get the extra money we need for these children so we ask for your support with this. As I am sure you have read in the news, funding for schools is currently a



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challenge so any extra we can get, it more to spend on your children.

Attendance

Whole-school weekly attendance **91.7%** - well below our target 😞

Class with the best attendance 2FP with 99.6% 😊

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 4 th March	Year 3, year 4 and Hive parent consults (3:30-5:30pm)
Tuesday 5 th March	Year 5E and year 6 parent consults (3:30-5:30pm)
Tuesday 5 th March	Transition event at Winifred Holtby for some children (pm)
Tuesday 5 th March	Y5/6 Dodgeball event at Winifred Holtby (3:45-5:30pm)
Wednesday 6 th March	Year 4 overnight visit to Edinburgh
Wednesday 6 th March	Year 1, year 2 and 5JP parent consults (3:30-5:30pm)
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 7 th March	Year 4 Edinburgh visit
Thursday 7 th 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

*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

Parent Pay

Don't forget – we are a cashless school and all payments for lunches and visits should be made through Parent Pay. Please ensure that any payments are kept up-to-date as the school is having to cover an unsustainable amount of arrears at the moment. Thank you.

What's been happening in school this week?

Nursery

This week in phonics we have been learning the phoneme 'U'. In maths we have been talking about the different patterns during our maths activity, on our pattern walk and during continuous provision using language such as "spotty, stripy, checked". The children were very excited visiting Mr Mills on our pattern walk to discover that he was wearing checked and stem patterns on his clothes!

In literacy we have learnt the new rhyme Humpty Dumpty, we have been listening and identifying the rhyming words within the song. During continuous provision the children have enjoyed drawing and writing cards, using their skills from their handwriting practice to begin forming letters of their names inside.

Reception



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In reception this week the children have had lots of fun in the outdoor area- they have really enjoyed riding bikes, scooters and cars. The children have shown us some wonderful imaginative play by creating car washes, tracks as well as bridge and den building. The adults have supported the children to use language to express how they feel when things aren't going as they expected.

We have played lots of games to develop listening and attention skills as well as turn taking and dealing with the feeling of 'disappointment' if we don't win.

The children have worked hard in phonics and have revisited sounds; nk (pink), ng (ring), sh (shell), th (thing). We have used these as passwords throughout the setting, which the children have really enjoyed.

In maths, the children have been demonstrating their previously taught maths skills through a range fun games and activities so that we can see which areas we might need to practise further.

In drawing club, it was 'animation week' so the children watched a classic clip from Tom and Jerry to ignite their imaginations. They absolutely loved this and have created some wonderful pictures and writing as a result.

Year 1/2

This week in Year 2 Maths we have explored measurements and different units of measure. We have used different items in our classroom environment to practice our skills.

In Year 1, we have begun to apply our understanding of addition and subtraction to word problems. We have needed our problem-solving skills and understanding of addition and subtraction fact families to select the correct operation and complete the word problem.

In writing we have been writing a recount of events from the story the Squirrels Who Squabbled. We have thought really carefully about the choices of vocabulary we have used within our writing and considered how we can up-level our vocabulary choices and use different adjectives to create the desired effect in our writing.

In Geography, we have looked at the meaning of physical and human features. We investigated different physical and human features in our local area and around our country.

In DT, we have continued to think about how we are going to make our purses. The children worked really hard and carefully to practise both running and cross stitch which they will be using in their final piece.

Year 3/4

Year 3 and 4 have had a wonderful week. In writing we have been starting our instructions unit, learning to write negative questions to hook the reader.

In reading all the children are doing extremely well with their retrieval practise. In maths Year 4 have been telling the time and have been super with it!



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We are now converting time from seconds in to minutes and minutes in to seconds – a little trickier but this hasn't stopped them! The Year 3 children have been finishing their unit on money and have all been really successful!

In History we learnt more about the stone age and what they ate, where they lived and what life was like.

Year 5

It's been a busy week in year five this week! For the group who have been swimming the progress has been great so far. The children are showing the Dorchester values of resilience and self-belief whilst learning this new skill and the swim instructors have commented on how much progress they have made already! Those that haven't been swimming have enjoyed consolidating their art and history skills and knowledge and completing some orienteering work in their PE sessions.

In maths we have been learning how to order and compare decimals, and how decimals can be equivalent to a fraction. In writing, we have edited and polished our independent writing, leaving the reader in suspense about how the story ends. Furthermore, we have continued improving our retrieval skills in reading and are finally getting to the chapters that will explain what is happening in Maisie's world.

Year 6

Year 6 have looked at angles on a straight line in Maths this week as well as recapping short & long multiplication as part of our ongoing SATs preparation. We also looked at addition & subtraction word problems and made a really good job of pulling out the key information to work out the calculation.

In Reading, we have worked through two different types of inference questions on a range of texts and have been able to decipher where evidence in the texts supports an idea about a character or what a quote tells us about a character.

We have completed our shared 'postcard' from Goldilocks in jail and are ready to move onto our independent write next week!

Hive

In The Hive this week we have been focusing on sensory play sessions. The children have used props such as balloons, bubbles and scarfs to support their sensory music sessions. The children really enjoyed the song 'Up up up' with the balloons, we used our gross body movements to see how long we could keep the balloons in the air.

In maths we have been exploring repeating patterns through coloured teddies creating a simple 2 colour pattern.

In cookery we have made our own cupcakes and decorated them.

Next Week's Menu

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Pasta bake with garlic bread	Sausages with mashed potato	Chicken curry with rice and naan	Roast beef with Yorkshire pudding	Fish Friday with chips
Tomato pasta (V)	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)				