



Dorchester Primary School

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



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week 24 – 8th March 2024

Message from Mr Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a 'jam-packed' week it has been this week.

Firstly, it was great to see so many of you attend parent consults to hear about how your children are getting on. There were so many positive comments I heard being passed on as I walked around. Your children really are a credit to our school and you should be very proud of them. For those of you who have not yet managed to speak to your child's class teacher, please speak to them about arranging an appointment/discussion – it is important that we let you know how they are coping with school life and what you can do at home to support them.

The majority of our year 4 children spent two days in Edinburgh this week. By the looks of the photos, they've had an amazing time, and I've heard nothing but positive comments about the way they have conducted themselves. What an amazing experience for them! My huge thanks go to the staff who gave up time with their own families to make this possible: Mrs Patrick, Miss Nassau, Mrs Young and Miss Everett.

Some of our year 5 and 6 children took part in a transition event at Winifred Holtby, followed by a dodgeball festival after-school. What fun they had! We even had games of dodgeball in the dark, with illuminous lighting.

Yesterday, so many of our children (and staff) wowed us with their World Book Day costumes. They were so excited to talk about their characters and the books they were from. They had great fun taking part in a range of reading activities and today, we were all impressed by the author of the book we focussed on, 'Hotel for Bugs', who came in and held our assembly this morning.

Finally, our year 5 children who had returned to swimming had their last session today. It's safe to say that everybody is so proud of the amount of progress they have made over the two weeks. Well done to all of them!

Stuart Mills



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Key Reminders

Parental Questionnaires

If you haven't already, I would encourage you to complete and return your parental questionnaires, which have been handed out at parental consultations this week. You are key stakeholders in our school community and your views do matter to us. We have made many improvements to the school based on your past feedback through the questionnaire, and we know we have more still to do to make our school the best it can be.

Attendance

Whole-school weekly attendance

92% - well below our target 😞

Class with the best attendance

1/2W with 97.9% 😊

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 11th March

Swimming starts for 4T (2 weeks)

Wednesday 13th March

Kurling Finals in Grimsby

Thursday 14th March

Year 5 London visit

Wednesday 20th March

Year 1/2 Sports hall Athletics (some children only)

Thursday 21st March

Decorated Easter Egg deadline

Thursday 21st March

KS2 Dodgeball Competition (some children only)

Friday 22nd March

Break off for half-term

Monday 8th April

Children return to school

*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

Parental Conduct

Whilst the vast majority of our parents support the work we do with your children, we have heard of some instances of parents being overheard on the playground telling their children that they do not have to follow the instructions of some of the adults who work in our school. I would like to remind all parents that we expect our children to respond to all of our adults in the same respectful way and follow the instructions they give. Failure to do this can lead to children receiving sanctions so please don't set your children up to fail and support us by re-iterating our expectations to them. Thank you.

What's been happening in school this week?

Nursery

What a very busy and lovely week we have had. In phonics the children could hear the sound 'r' at the beginning of words. We practiced segmenting and blending words, using our segmenting fingers. In maths we have been creating ABAB patterns, using colour and shapes. There had been lots of opportunities to practice



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this independently within the classroom. We continue to learn and practice the words and actions to the rhyme 'Humpty Dumpty.' The children are listening for and identifying the rhyming words. The nursery children have been weaving this week, this has been quite tricky but the children persevered and completed the task. Have a great weekend everyone.

Reception

In phonics, the reception children have learnt four new sounds: **ai (tail)**, **ee (sheep)**, **ight (light)** and **oa (soap)**. We have been really impressed with their improved 'looking' during carpet times, so well-done reception!

In drawing club this week, we read the story 'I want my hat back'. The children loved this story and had lots of fun drawing and writing about it. The vocabulary that we taught alongside the text was: **heartbroken**, **disappointed**, **hopeless**, **wandering**, **livid**, **sneaky**, **content**. We have been using this vocabulary in the environment so it would be fantastic if you could use at home when you are chatting or playing.

The children have had lots of fun inside and out and have shown their creativity through a range of role play. They have continued to show an interest in den building and washing the bikes and scooters in the car wash. We'd love to see some den building at home so send us your pictures via Dojo if you do make one.

The adults are continuing to support children to work collaboratively by modelling the use of language such as 'Please can you pass me the...?', 'When you are finished, can I play with the...?', 'I don't like it when you..., please stop.' etc. It would be great for the children to hear these phrases being used at home too, to help them put them into practice.

The children enjoyed world book day and looked absolutely wonderful, so thank you for all your efforts. The children had a special treat in assembly today when they were visited by the author of 'Hotel for Bugs', Suzy Senior.

Year 1/2

In writing this week, year 1 children have been working hard to write their own sentences all about the story 'The Squirrels Who Squabbled'. They have collected effective vocabulary to use within their own similes. Year 2 children have been collecting a range of vocabulary to describe the weather and how it could mirror our character's feelings. We have used personification within our sentences to give the weather human characteristics. We have also used a variety of drama techniques to explore how inanimate objects move within movies like Beauty and the Beast and Fantasia.

In maths, year 1 have been learning about subtraction. The Year 1 children have been using a variety of methods to complete subtraction word problems. Year 2 have continued to work on comparing length. We have also explored some word problems, mind challenges and completed our end of unit review.

In reading, year 2 have been busy completing comprehension tasks on our next extract from 'Harry the Poisonous Centipede'. This week we have been using Mana the Monitor to help us explore the text and give



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two answers for each question.

In science, we have been completing some work in our plant diaries. Last week, we planted some radishes and this week we have observed and measured their growth.

On Thursday, the children thoroughly enjoyed participating in World Book Day activities. Their costumes looked amazing, and their rocks were beautifully decorated. Thank you for all of your time and effort.

Year 3/4

What a busy week for all of our children! Some of our Year 4 children spent their first night away in Edinburgh and were absolutely amazing. Those left at school and the Year 3s were equally as fabulous and enjoyed getting dressed up for World Book Day.



Year 5

This week in year 5, the children have begun to develop their decimal knowledge to add and subtract to and below 1, showing some really good problem-solving skills. In writing, we have learned about a new piece of punctuation called a semi colon and have learned how to use this when writing a complex list in preparation for writing a non-chronological report. Also, in reading, we have finally discovered the tragic fate of Maisie Day and how the sisterly bond lasted the over decades. While some children enjoyed their final week of swimming, which they all succeeded brilliantly in, the rest of the year group spent time looking at world book day and completing activities linked to our top 100 reads. Finally, we started our new science module on forces and created some wonderful world book day watercolours.

Year 6

We've had another busy week in Y6 again. In Maths we have recapped short division in our arithmetic sessions. Some of the children have looked at long division and have really impressed with their resilience and self-belief. Other children have continued to look at algebra! In our Writing lessons, we have finished the first draft of our postcard/letter that we are writing from jail and are now starting to publish this! In Reading, we have continued to look at different extracts and work on our inference questions. We enjoyed talking about the message and themes of the World Book Day text – Hotel for Bugs. We also enjoyed looking at the book Skellig.

Hive

This week in phonics we have been identifying our phase 2 graphemes, our new grapheme is E. Our focus words have been elbow, egg, elephant and envelope. The children have been able to identify these focus words.

In maths we have explored shapes and repeating patterns. The children enjoyed using paint and blocks to make their own large-scale repeating pattern.

We have been getting creative by making cards with handprints and felt tips, the children also wrote inside the cards tracing over their names. In cookery we have made buns and decorated them with icing.

It was lovely to see all the world book day costumes.

Next Week's Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pizza served with potato wedges	Meatballs with mash and Yorkshire	All Day Breakfast	Roast chicken and trimmings	Fish Friday with chips



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Margherita pizza (V)	pudding 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)				



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