



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 25 – 15th March 2024

Message from Mr Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's great to finally see some prolonged sunshine and warmer weather – it definitely makes a difference to the way we feel.

This week saw the start of our year 4 swimming, with Miss Townsend's class 'taking to the water'. I have been fortunate to attend with them on a couple of occasions, and already it is clear that they are making excellent progress. Swimming is such an important 'life-skill' and our aim is for all children to be able to swim at least 25m before they leave our school.

On Wednesday, I took four children to Brigg to take part in the 'Kurling' finals, having been one of the winning teams from our local heats. There were over fifteen schools competing from right across the Humber region. Our children worked brilliantly together and had lots of fun competing against other teams. Sadly, we did not come away as overall winners, but our children should be extremely proud of what they have achieved!

Yesterday, our year 5 children spent the day in London as part of our 'enrichment' curriculum. It was an early start and late finish, but well worth it from what I heard and saw. They had a great time experiencing the tube, a river cruise, Buckingham Palace and Downing Street, and learnt lots about our capital city.

Have a great weekend!

Stuart Mills

Attendance

Whole-school weekly attendance	92%
Class with the best attendance	3N – 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.



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

Upcoming events	
Wednesday 20 th March	Year 1/2 Sports hall Athletics (some children only)
Thursday 21 st March	Decorated Easter Egg deadline
Thursday 21 st March	KS2 Dodgeball Competition (some children only)
Friday 22 nd March	Break off for half-term
Monday 8 th April	Children return to school
<p><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/</p>	

Messages

Use of WhatsApp / Snapchat



It has been brought to our attention that some of our older children (years 5 and 6) are sending inappropriate and offensive messages to each other via WhatsApp and Snapchat. Included in some of these messages are conversations encouraging each other to misbehave at school. Clearly, we want to nip this in the bud quickly, as this is already having a detrimental affect on some of our children. We are not able to 'police' children's use of social media and messaging apps – that falls to you as the parent/carer. We would strongly advise that you check your child's apps and, where appropriate take the necessary action to prevent them being influenced e.g. by monitoring their use, removing their devices or deleting these apps from your child's phone.

The vast majority of our children demonstrate our values and are responsible, but we have a small minority who are making some poor choices. Please support us with addressing this quickly to prevent any escalation. Thank you!

What's been happening in school this week?

Nursery

The Nursery children have had a very enjoyable week. In phonics they have learnt the phoneme 'h', The children thought of words beginning with that sound, heart, hippo, hat, Harry, Hudson and happy were to name but a few. We continue to blend and segment words and the children are becoming more confident in using their segmenting fingers. In Literacy we are enjoying the rhyme 'Incy, Wincy', which has led to lots of discussion and mark making. During literacy we have heard the rhyming words and had to find the odd one out. In maths the children have looked at lots of different patterns, during an activity we used the children to create a repeating pattern, girl, boy, long hair, short hair, brown hair and blonde hair. Lots of children have made a pattern in the environment, exploring different media to create them. We have talked about different cultures and beliefs focussing on Ramadan, this led to lots of discussion and the children joined in with making a lantern.

Reception

In phonics we have learnt the difference between digraphs 'oo' (zoom to the moon) and 'oo' (hook a book); aswell as 'ar' and 'or'. We have reviewed our knowledge with sorting and matching activities. In maths, we have been practising our grouping skills by counting groups of objects to find the correct total within 10. This week our key book has been 'Hansel and Gretel', we have especially loved learning key words such as evil,



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clever, and triumphant!

We have also created some amazing art work when thinking about the key characters and setting in drawing club!

In our continuous provision this week we have been creating fantastic structures like ice cream shops, camp fires and food stalls with lots of travel between them on bikes and cars!

Year 1/2

In writing this week children in Year 1 have been exploring and choosing their favourite synonyms to create sentences for effect. They have chosen words like sneaky, sly and crafty to describe the bird that swooped in and stole the pinecone from the squirrels!

Year 2 have been finishing off their narrative writing based on the story 'The Building Boy' and have enjoyed using onomatopoeia to create suspense!

In maths Year 1 have been exploring measure. They have compared the length and height of different objects and have used different items to measure and compare. They have used language such as tall, tallest, short, shortest, long and longest.

Year 2 have been comparing the mass of different objects using equality symbols to represent more than, less than and equal to.

In design and technology, the children have been really excited to practise the skills needed to make a purse using a selection of stitches.

They can talk about the tools and materials they will need to complete their project and in their sewing practise session have shown determination and perseverance. We have seen some excellent sewing this week – well done everyone!

Year 3/4

What a busy week! Year 4 have completed their pedestrian skills course and Miss Townsend's class have been swimming every day, making us extremely proud with their resilience! The other children who haven't been swimming have been amazing even though we have been off time table. Some days we have done team games in P.E and others we have practised our sewing skills. All the children have worked really hard on their instructions this week and have blown us away with their ideas and handwriting.

Year 5

What a week for our Year 5 children. A busy week of testing, which the children embraced with such resilience. Then the highlight of the week and the year so far was our trip to London yesterday! A great time was had by all that attended, and they overcame the early start, although there were lots of sleepy children on the train ride home.

Year 6

We've continued our SATs prep in Y6 this week by looking at adding fractions with and without whole numbers. We've also looked at angles within quadrilaterals and used our knowledge of what the angles equal to



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find missing angles! In Writing, we have published our latest independent piece of writing - our postcard/letter from jail - and have looked at the active and passive voice. In Reading, we've continued to look at a range of extracts and have been working on our inference skills. We enjoyed our penultimate archery lesson and enjoyed learning about 'The Big Legal Lesson' and how the law affects our daily lives!

Hive

This week in the Hive we have been focusing on Identifying 2D shapes. The children have made 3D models using the shapes and pictures using 2D shapes.

In cookery this week children made their own play dough, weighing out the ingredients and following instructions on how to make the play dough. The children then used different shape cutters to make their own models out of the play dough.

In writing we have finished our own story book, 'We are going on a bear hunt' by tracing over sentences for the story.

The class have been busy exploring the sensory room and regulating on the new soft play equipment.

Next week we will be getting very creative with Easter activities.

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)				