



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 26 – 22nd March 2024

Message from Mr Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are at the end of another term! The weeks seem to be passing so quickly and, as always, they have been very busy.

This week, Miss Townsend's class completed their swimming sessions and so many of them made lots of progress – they should be very proud.

In addition, I was lucky enough to have some KS2 children to the annual dodgeball competition, with Miss Garrod. All of the children were brilliant, honest representatives of our school! Our year 3/4 team were champions of the 'play-off' group and our year 5/6 team came away as overall champions and the trophy. We are very proud of all of them – wonderful self-belief and resilience shown.

We hope you have a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to welcoming our children back on **Monday 8th April**.

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Attendance Expectations

Our overall attendance for the Spring term was a disappointing 91.2% and is well below the government target of 95%. As a reminder, children should be in school whenever possible. Minor ailments such as colds, coughs and sore throats are not a reason to keep your child off. We find on lots of occasions, that when children get to school, they settle and are able to cope well. If we feel that children are too unwell to be at school, then we would always call you to collect them.

Attendance

Whole-school weekly attendance	91.8% – well below our target 😞
Class with the best attendance	6T with 98.1% 😊



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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

Friday 22 nd March	Break off for half-term
Monday 8 th April	Children return to school
<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

What's been happening in school this week?

Nursery

The children have listened carefully in phonics, hearing the phoneme 'b' at the beginning of words. Ask your child what words they know beginning with this sound. In literacy the children performed the rhyme 'Incy Wincy' spider to their peers, using actions with each verse. We have seen lots of children engaging in mark making this week, the adults have encouraged some children to think about the colours they use and adding more detail and features to their work to extend their ideas. In maths we have talked about measure, using lots of maths language such as long, short, tall, longer, shorter and height. We used bricks to compare length and height. We have enjoyed making Easter crafts and the children are looking forward to their Easter Bonnet parade. Enjoy your Easter break.

Reception

Reception have had an extremely busy week in phonics learning new tricky words and phonemes. We have used our knowledge to help write words and sentences. In drawing club, we have looked at wacky races and had lots of fun designing cars and exploring new vocabulary. In maths we have been exploring number bonds to 3, 4, 5 and 6. We have looked at different ways of making these using various resources and recorded them on a part whole model. We even tried writing some number sentences that wowed us. We have enjoyed learning about the celebration of Easter and making some beautiful Easter cards which the children can't wait to bring home to show you. We loved showing off our amazing Easter bonnets on our parade around the school. What a fantastic week we have had!

Year 1/2

In writing this week the Year 1 children have enjoyed exploring and carefully choosing similes to describe the crafty bird who stole the last pinecone from the squirrels. The children have thought carefully about the choices they are making to ensure they create the desired effect. The Year 1 children have worked incredibly hard this week in using all their learning from this unit of writing and have completed their independent write, a recount of events based on the story 'The Squirrels Who Squabbled'. Year 2 have also been working very hard on planning and writing their independent narrative based on the story 'The Building Boy'. They have enjoyed making careful selections of new vocabulary, applying all of the skills and important features learnt within the unit to their writing.

In maths Year 1 have continued to explore measure. They have applied their understanding of comparing measure to word problems and real-life examples. Year 2 have continued their learning of mass, they have been focussing on comparing the mass of three objects, and finding the difference of the mass of different objects. In science the children have completed their diary of a radish plant. The children have explored and understand



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everything a plant needs to be healthy. They have written an equipment list and instructions for planting a radish; completed weekly observational findings on the growth of their plant and have also compared this to a plant without water and a plant without sunlight. The children have demonstrated a fantastic understanding and ability to take care of and grow a healthy plant.

In Design and Technology, the children have really enjoyed applying their skills of a running stitch and a cross stitch to begin their final piece of making a purse. The children are able to name and identify the equipment they will need to complete this project and can explain the process of completing the stitch they are going to use.

All of the children have worked exceptionally hard over the spring term – we hope you all have a much-deserved rest and enjoy the Easter break.

Year 3/4

Another busy week! Miss Townsend's class have been working extremely hard in their swimming lessons and all children have made excellent progress! We are so proud of them! All of the children in year 3 and 4 have been writing and editing their instructions this week on "How to be respectful" and have then taken great care when publishing them. Some fabulous ideas and a lot of resilience has been shown by all children. Our sewing morning was a great success and the children were thrilled to take home their projects or the project a friend had made for them. It was nice to have so many of you in to help us! Thank you if you were able to make it in. Have a fabulous Easter!

Year 5

Busy last week in Year 5. In writing we have been focussing on using semi colons in a complex list when writing our non-chronological reports on the Emperor Penguins. In maths we have finished our fractions, decimals and percentages unit.

In the afternoon we have explored Easter story in Christianity and what the crucifixion means to Christians. In Geography we have been inspired by our London trip and created our own tube map for Hull and the East Riding. We wish you all a restful Easter and we look forward to seeing the children when we return for the summer term.

Year 6

We have continued our SATs preparations in Y6 this week by looking at subtracting fractions with different denominators, including calculations with wholes. We have continued to practise our Reading skills on a range of texts and have looked at VGP questions around the use of capital letters, full stops, clauses and modal verbs. We have enjoyed learning about sign language as part of British Sign Language Week and enjoyed our final archery lesson!

Hive

This week in the hive we have been exploring different emotions by looking at our reflections in the mirror and practicing our happy and sad faces. The children have joined in with the actions to the song if you are happy and you know it.



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The class have painted their own hands to make chick handprints for their Easter cards. Inside the cards they have made marks or written their name.

In cookery the children melted chocolate and mixed with cereals to make chocolate Easter buns.

Have a great Easter holiday.

First Next Back Menu

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Chicken goujons with potato wedges and veg	Sausages with mash, yorkie and veg	Chilli con carne with rice and nachos	Carvery with yorkie, roast potatoes and veg	Fish Friday with chips and beans/peas
Cheese toastie (V)	Vegetarian sausages (V)	Tomato pasta with garlic bread (V)	Quorn fillet (V)	Mediterranean quiche (V)
Plus, a selection of sandwiches (ham, cheese or tuna) and jacket potatoes (tuna, cheese or beans)				