



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 27 – 12th April 2024

Message from Mr Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the summer term – we hope you had all had a lovely Easter break and are looking forward to what will hopefully some warmer weeks ahead.

Children have been really settled upon their return to school, which is very pleasing to see and hear about. Our year 6 children have had to 'hit the ground running' as they are busy preparing for their tests, which they will sit in May. We can see how hard they are working – so keep it up!

As we start our final term at school, I would like to mention attendance. As you may have seen in the news, the attendance of children is a government priority due to the number of children persistently absent (below 90%) and severely absent (below 50%). In our school, we currently have 53 children who are persistently missing school. If children are not in school, then they are missing out on their learning, which over time affects their ability. Whilst their peers move on to new learning, those children who are missing their education will be developing gaps in their knowledge. As you know, we want all of our children to be successful and our job is to prepare them well for life at secondary school. We don't want any children to start secondary on the wrong foot, not being able to access the KS3 curriculum. So, we ask for your help in ensuring that our children attend school every day (unless they have a valid reason not to be here, such as sickness). The education of our children matters!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Stuart Mills

Key Reminders

Contact Details

Please remember that if you update your contact details i.e. telephone number or address, please let our office know. It is important that we have up-to-date information so that we are able to contact you in emergencies.



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Attendance	
Whole-school weekly attendance	93.9% - well below our target 😞
Class with the best attendance	1P with 97% 😊
<p><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></p>	

Upcoming events	
Thursday 18 th April	Parent Coffee morning (9:30am)
Monday 6 th May	School Closed – May Day Bank Holiday
Wednesday 8 th May	Parallel Athletics Festival (for some pupils)
Thursday 9 th May	Year 5 Boys 5-a-side tournament (3:30-5:45pm)
Monday 13 th May	KS2 SATs Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper
Tuesday 14 th May	KS2 SATs Reading Paper
Wednesday 15 th May	KS2 SATs Maths Paper 1 and Maths Paper 2
Thursday 16 th May	KS2 SATs Maths Paper 3
Monday 20 th May	Swimming starts for some Y4 and Y6 children (2 weeks)
Monday 20 th May	KS1 SATs week
Wednesday 22 nd May	Year 2 Athletics Competition for some children (12:00-2:30pm)
Thursday 23 rd May	Y3/4 and Y5/6 Cricket Qualifiers for some children (9:30-2:30pm)
Friday 24 th May	Year 5 Golf Competition for some children (12:00-2:30pm)
Friday 24 th May	CHILDREN BREAK OFF FOR HALF TERM
Wednesday 5 th June	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
<p><u>Parent Teacher Association</u></p> <p>Our new PTA have had a few meetings this year and have already done some fundraising activities, such as the Easter raffle. If you would like to be involved in our PTA, please contact the school and/or turn up at one of our PTA meetings, where you can learn about how you can contribute.</p> <p>We are excited about working with our PTA to look at what they can do to support the school further.</p>

What's been happening in school this week?
<p>Nursery</p> <p>The children have settled back in to the nursery routine fantastically after the Easter break. They have shown lots of respect and self-belief. In phonics this week the children have been learning the phoneme 'f', listening to this sound at the beginning of words. In Literacy we have learnt the rhyme 'Jack and Jill'. The children have drawn a picture of their favourite part of the rhyme. In maths we have been looking at and talking about full</p>



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and empty, the children enjoyed these activities and have continued to use the language in their play and own learning. The adults have seen lots of communication between themselves, developing lovely relationships. Well done nursery.

Reception

In reception this week we have learnt two new sounds in phonics 'air' (chair) and 'er' (bigger).

We have been learning about maps by looking at the map of Densholme farm and then creating some maps of our own! The children have really enjoyed this!

In their play, they have been sorting farm animals into groups to make their own pens of animals.

We have also learned about baby animals and thinking about their names e.g. lamb, kid, calf, chicks and ducklings. The children had a wonderful time at the farm where they had the chance to see and feed some of these animals and their babies!

The children have been learning about the number 8 this week and finding two numbers that are parts of 8 such as 4 and 4, 3 and 5, 2 and 6 and 1 and 7.

In drawing club our story has been 'Click Clack Moo, Cows that Type'. The children enjoyed the story of the cheeky cows asking Farmer Brown for electric blankets. They have created some lovely drawings as well as having a go at writing a short sentence.

Year 1/2

Year 1 Writing: This week the Year 1 children have been working hard to use adjectives to describe the size and personality of the lion in their new story 'The Lion Inside'.

Year 2 Writing: This week the children have used a range of techniques to write effective sentences for our new story 'George and the Dragon'. We have used personification, alliteration, repetition and similes to engage the reader's interest.

Year 1 maths: This week the children have been learning about numbers to 40. The Year 1 children have also used the terminology more and less to compare numbers.

Year 2 maths: This week the children have started a new unit on temperature. We found out all about the terminology Degrees Celsius and we practised reading temperature using a thermometer. We are now able to order and compare temperatures using the equality symbols.

In music, we have started our new unit on Pitch. We have learnt and practised how to hear high pitch sounds, middle pitch sounds and low pitch sounds. We completed a sound hunt around the school in order to identify high pitches and low pitches within our environment.



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In DT, we have finished our sewing unit by using running stitch and cross stitch to add the final embellishments to match our designs.

All children have learnt some attacking tactics in PE this week. We have all thoroughly enjoyed playing a new game called 'Treasure Chests' where we had to work together to use a variety of strategies to collect the most treasure by the end of the game.

Year 3/4

What a busy first week back! Monday took us back to the Stone Age, we were fishing and hunting for our lunch and immersed ourselves in the world of cave art! We learnt more about the Neolithic period in History and have started our narrative 'The Stone Age Boy', writing our opening paragraph, trying to hook our reader in to the story.

In maths Year 4 have finished their unit on decimals and we are moving on to looking at applying this knowledge to money. Year 3 are still working hard on telling the time.

In Guided Reading we have started a new book called "The Legend of Podkin One Ear" So far we have found out that rabbits live in a world where humans no longer exist! We have so many questions and can't wait to find out more!

Year 5

It has been a productive start to our summer term in year 5, and we've hit the ground running with our new topics. Firstly, we began our new maths topic of angles. While we found it tricky to use a protractor accurately, we were fantastic at working out missing angles on a line and around a point.

Furthermore, the children have been showing great interest in our new class read 'The Haunting of Aveline Jones' and created some thoughtful predictions about what could happen in the story. Finally, we have finished our first attempt at writing a nonchronological report ready for us to begin creating an independent piece linked to our geography next week.

In an afternoon, a brilliant double page spread on key teachings of different faiths has been produced, we recapped the water cycle and rivers and conducted an enquiry in science to see if the shape of a boat would impact how it travelled through water.

Year 6

In Y6 we've hit the ground running with our SATs preparation (only 19 school days until the start of SATs!). In Maths, we have recapped multiplying and dividing fractions as well as how to work out percentages of amounts.

In Reading, we have looked at a range of texts once again, working on inference style questions. In Writing, we have begun our new genre - romance! We have introduced the character Malcolm who is a bit down in the dumps!

Hive

This week in the Hive we have introduced our new story book to the class, our story is 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.'

The children have made a large caterpillar for our display board by painting paper plates green and red.

In cookery the children cut up bananas into slices to make a caterpillar and used raisins for the eyes.

In writing, we have been focusing on tracing over sentences from our story to make our own book about the



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caterpillar.

The children as always have settled back into our class routine really well. Well done on a great first week back.

First Next Back Menu				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Korma with rice and naan bread	Pizza with diced potatoes	Lasagne with salad and garlic bread	Roast dinner with Yorkshire pudding and gravy	Fish Friday with chips and peas/beans
Tomato Pasta (V)	Vegetarian Pizza (V)	Cheesy Pasta (V)	Quorn Fillet (V)	Fishless fingers (V)
Plus, a selection of sandwiches (ham, cheese or tuna) and jacket potatoes (tuna, cheese or beans)				



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