

Peek at the Week



Why and How do Jews celebrate Hanukkah?

This week we have learnt about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah and listened to the Hanukkah story. The story, from long, long ago, tells of a brave group of men, led by Judah Maccabee, who fought off the army of the wicked King Antiochus so that they could continue to worship in their own Jewish temple. Jewish temples have an 'eternal light', which burns at all times to show that God is present. The King's army had destroyed the temple and extinguished the eternal oil lamp. The amount left would only last for one day and it would take eight days to ride for some more. The miracle of the Hanukkah story is that the small amount of oil, lasted for eight days instead of one. So every Hanukkah, Jews celebrate their victory by lighting a Hanukkiah - an eight branched candlestick, and by eating food cooked in oil, like doughnuts and potato pancakes. We also learnt a song called One Little Candle, which the children will sing in assembly next term, wearing candle flame hats that they made.

We also have to congratulate all the children for their magnificent Nativity performances this week. They worked so hard and they should be very proud of themselves!



Dip and Do - Keep up with Phonics

Please keep learning the tricky words that we have sent home. These are best learned through repetition. At school we use flashcards, so we sent home flashcard templates so you can make your own to use with your child.

There is a page on the Little Wandle website, for parents. The resources on this page will help you support your child with saying their sounds and writing their letters. There are also some useful videos so you can see how they are taught at school and feel confident about supporting their reading at home.

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Forest School

The children will have Forest School sessions on a Thursday morning with Riad. The classes will go every other week. We are looking for parents who would be available to support us with these sessions either weekly or on a rota basis. If you think you can help please contact your class teacher (see email addresses below).

Forest School timetable:

January

8th - Bronze

15th - Silver

22nd - Bronze

29th - Silver

February

5th - Bronze

12th - Silver

26th - Bronze

Thank you to all the parents who have helped at Forest School. The children are loving having parents come to help. We can always take more!

Reception Parent/Carer Events 2025-26



September

Welcome to Reception
Tuesday 25th
8:30-9:15am
Copper Class to
Bronze Class)

October

Early Birds: Fine Motor
Activities
Tuesday 11th
8:30-9:15am
Bronze and Silver
Classrooms.

November

Phonics Workshop
Thursday 13th
8:30-9:15am
Copper Class

December

EYFS Nativity
Thursday 16th
9:15-10:30am
Whole School
2:45-3:15pm
Main Hall

January

Maths Workshop
Thursday 22nd
January
8:30-9:15am
Copper Class

February

Live Maths Meeting
Thursday 12th
2:45-3:15pm
Bronze and Silver
Classrooms.

March

Early Birds: Maths
Wednesday 18th
8:30-9:15am
Bronze and Silver
Classrooms

April

Live Phonics
Wednesday 22nd
8:45-9:30am
Bronze and Silver
Classrooms

May

Family Reading
Celebration
Friday 8th
2:45-3:15pm
Bronze and Silver
Classrooms

June

Bronze Class
Assembly
Friday 19th
9:00-9:30am
Main Hall

July

Silver Class Assembly
Friday 3rd
9:00-9:30am
Main Hall

Early Bird: Summer Holiday
Activities
Friday 10th
8:30-9:15am

August

SUMMER
HOLIDAYS

Important dates

First Day Spring 1 - Tuesday 6th January 2026

Maths Workshop- Thursday 22nd January 2026

School Dinner Menu

The school dinner menu can be found on the school website at:

<https://www.dorchesterprimary.com/page/?title=School+Lunch&pid=114>

Contact emails

If you would like to contact any of us by email. We will reply as soon as possible within school working hours.

Mrs Annabel Glover-EYFS lead/Nursery aglover13@suttonmail.org

Miss Munaza Ahmad - Silver Class mahmad68@suttonmail.org

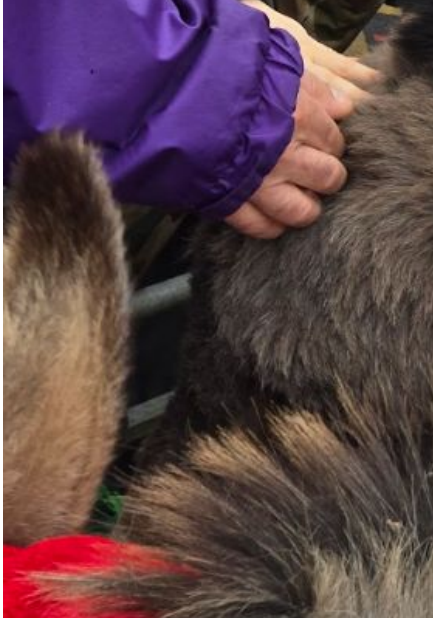
Mrs Tammy Rich- Bronze Class trich18@suttonmail.org

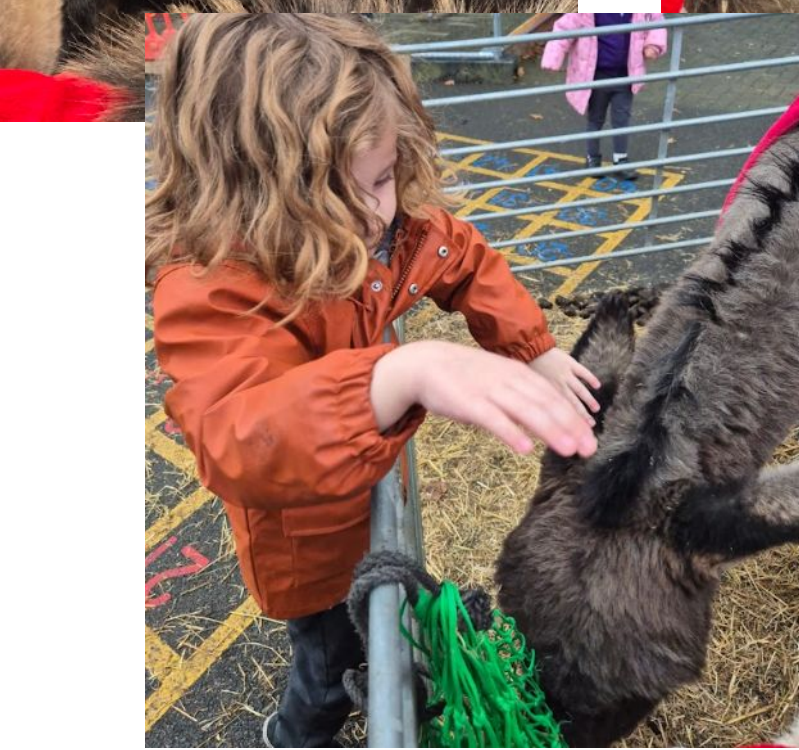


In forest school, the children had an incredible time toasting marshmallows!

How do we stay safe in front of a fire?





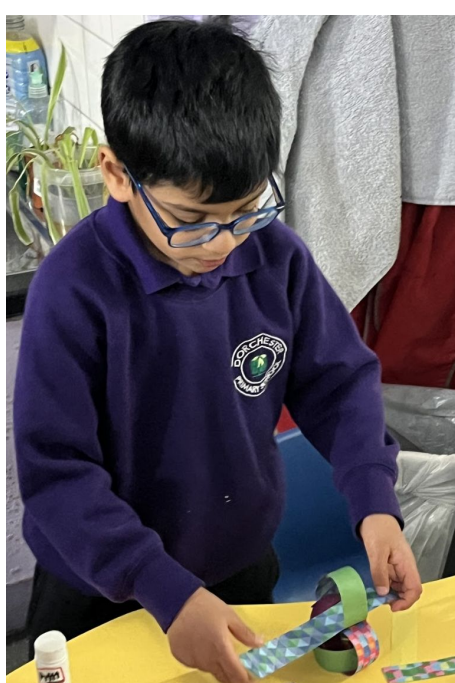


We were incredibly lucky to have some special visitors at our school!

What do you know about donkeys?

Why was the donkey important in *The Nativity* story?



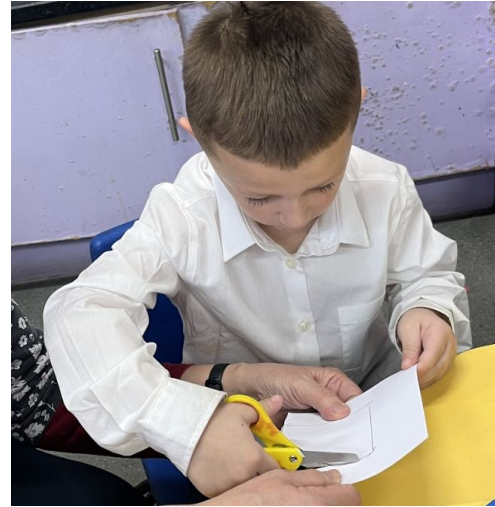
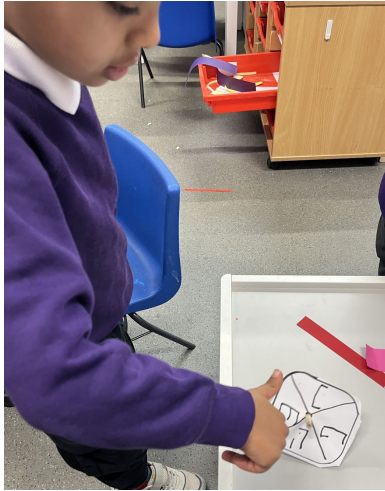
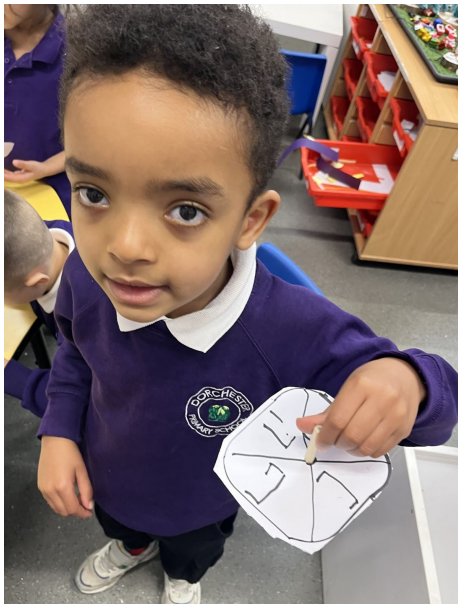


The children loved making paper chains to decorate the classrooms.!

Can you explain how to make a paper chain?

How do you join the pieces together?





The children made Hanukkah dreidels - a spinning top with four hebrew letters, which stand for 'A Great Miracle Happened There'

What was the Hanukkah miracle?

How did you get your dreidel to spin?

