



DPS News

Dorchester Primary School, Dorchester Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 8PG

telephone: 0208 330 1144, email: office@dorchesterprimary.com

follow us on:



dorchester_primary_school



@DorchesterP



@dorchesterprimary

'The mind is just like a muscle – the more you exercise it, the stronger it gets and the more it can expand.' Idowu Koyenikan

25th February, 2022

Dear Parents

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school following the half term break; they have returned enthusiastic and ready to learn as we begin the second half of the academic year. In assembly on Monday we introduced this half term's value, Perseverance, and we encouraged the children to develop their growth mindset by sharing some of the science of the brain, namely helping them to understand that the more we stretch our brain (i.e. the harder we work) the stronger it gets – a very good reason to persevere and not to give up.

We challenged our thinking in assembly on Tuesday too as we thought about whether it was always right to forgive someone who apologises. We used the example of Boris Johnson's apology about Downing Street events during lockdown as a stimulus for this. Of course our children had fabulous ideas about when it was right to forgive and when it might not be, making some very valid points about it depending on whether an apology is truly meant or not.

As members of Sutton Education Trust, we are part of the Challenge Partners group; they seek to enhance the life chances of all children through collaboration between schools. This week I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to spend 3 days at Foxfield Primary School in Greenwich to carry out a Quality Assurance Review alongside leaders from other schools and led by an Ofsted inspector. It is always fantastic to get out into other schools to both support them and, of course, to learn from them so that the visit has a positive impact on both schools. We are on a continuous mission to ensure that our children at Dorchester have access to the highest quality teaching and the best learning opportunities, and this process is just one element towards ensuring this.

It is wonderful to see our children increasingly take on leadership roles in school – we have a number of children who are currently organising charity events independently and it was delightful to hear that Henry in Ruby Class, on noticing a lot of rubbish in the streets around school, asked his parents if he could litter pick. He filled a whole bag of rubbish on a walk to the shops. We are so proud of you Henry for seeing a problem and doing something positive about it – that's the way to change the world.



Have a lovely weekend.

Cathy Bell
Headteacher



DPS Notices

Polling Day Thursday 5th May – Year 6 in school

On **Thursday 5th May 2022**, the school has been identified as a polling station for local government elections. We are unable to open to the whole school due to the hall being in use and the volume of visitors that would be on site throughout the day. However, we have given some consideration to how we can best use the staff who will be available and the space which we can block public access to, whilst still accommodating voters and will remain open for **YEAR 6 ONLY** on this day. Further information will be sent specifically to Year 6 Parents closer to the time, but children will be able to work in small groups on this day using the expertise from across the school to help children with any individual gaps in their learning following lockdown, ready for them to go to Secondary School. **For all other year groups, including Nursery, the school will be closed.**



Year 3/4 Climbing

Some intrepid Year 3 and 4 climbers took part in a climbing festival at Carshalton Boys' Sports College on Thursday using the indoor climbing wall. They were given an introduction to bouldering and had a go at various challenges helping to practise their skills which were lots of fun.

All the children really did themselves proud showing such positive attitudes, perseverance and representing us brilliantly – there are definitely some climbers in the making too!

Dogs not allowed on school site please

Please may we politely remind all dog owners that dogs must be kept off school site at all times. This is in the interest of health and safety for everyone, but particularly for our children.

Thank you





Eco News

The Eco council have had another productive meeting with two special visitors. Jenny Batt a Liberal Democrat Councillor and Paul Garside, Sustainable Transport Advisor who came to visit Dorchester and discuss with the children potential ideas to reduce traffic, congestion and carbon dioxide emissions around the school at pick up and drop off. As usual the children came up with some fantastic ideas and impressed our visitors with their passion and enthusiasm. Watch out for some traffic actions from our team coming soon.



Taylor and Alana from Fuchsia Class gave us a fantastic demonstration during our Eco Council meeting on how to make our own Eco Bricks using a plastic bottle filled with un-recyclable plastic. We have plans to create our own shelter in school using these bricks. Watch out for more information on this exciting project coming to Dorchester very soon. Thank you girls for your informative and well executed demonstration.



A big shout out to year 6 as many of them have taken on the role of doing the schools classroom recycling. Mason and Harvey, fulfil their jobs with pride. Thank you to year 6 for taking this action and leading the way with our plans for the school to become more environmentally friendly.



Class Notes



What is your favourite sandwich filling and why?

This week in Nursery we have been reading the story of Sam's Sandwich by David Pelham. In this story Sam helps his sister Samantha to make a sandwich. Samantha is very excited to be able to choose a variety of fillings for her sandwich by herself. She selects lots of lovely ingredients like lettuce leaves so crisp and green, big tomatoes red and round, yummy cheese and nice salami. However, Samantha doesn't know that her brother also adds some extra things without her knowing including big black ants, a wriggly worm, a small tadpole and a slimy slug. The children have all found this book hilarious and we have been talking about things which are healthy to eat and things that are not. The children have all been very busy using purposeful marks to create shopping lists for the items that they would like to use to make a sandwich. Their shopping lists were so fantastic that we decided to buy the ingredients and they have all shown very good fine motor skills when making sandwiches by themselves. The best bit was of course eating them! For our maths learning we have been learning all about the number 4 and how it is made. For our Phonics learning we have continued to look at rhyming words and the children have made some super rhyming sandwiches with ingredients such as trees and bees and ham and jam.



What do you think makes a good friend?

This week in Reception we have been reading about the three friends who made a tasty soup together in Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper. Each friend had their own job that helped to make a tasty soup, but things went a bit awry when one of the friends wanted to change their job. The children have retold the story and acted out the parts using props. They have thought about what makes a good friend and how they can be good friends to each other. Many friendship bracelets and cards have been made and exchanged and some lovely explanations in words and writing, have been given about how much they love their friends and why.

In Maths we have been looking at time. How long does a minute last? Is it a long time or a short time? Well both classes did really well testing this out by sitting in silence for a minute! Their challenge this week was to see how many activities they could do in a minute, such as star jumps, counting to 10, building a block tower or touching their toes. Later in the week we looked at photos of some of our teachers and our friends when they were babies. We talked about what we looked like and what we could do when we were babies and how we have changed as time has moved on, and we have grown older.



Class Notes



Welcome back Year 1, it has been great to see all of the children back at school after the half-term break. The children have had a busy first week back at school and have enjoyed seeing their friends.

We have introduced our new topic this week 'Once Upon a Time' and the children have enjoyed sharing their knowledge of castles and what they would like to find out during the course of the topic.

In Literacy, we have read the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood' and the children have thought of actions to help retell the story. We have been practising asking questions and even had a wolf come to visit! The children thought of some fantastic questions to ask the wolf.

In Maths, we have been looking at subtraction and using a ten frame to help us find the answer. The children have been using the number cards to write their own number sentences for their friends to solve.

In Science, we have started looking at the human body and our senses. The children have enjoyed labelling the different parts of our body.

In Computing, we have created our own e-card on Google Slides and the children have learnt how to insert a drawing onto their card.



Can you retell Jack and the Beanstalk?

Year 2 have been excited to start the new Geography topic 'From Dragon's to Dim Sum'. We will be learning about China and comparing it to England. This week we have been learning about physical and human features. In Science we have been looking at what animals and plants need in order to survive and classifying things into living and non-living things. In DT we have been looking at how we can keep food safe and clean, ready to cook a stir fry next week.

In English we have been reading Jack and the Beanstalk. We have been learning to use expanded noun phrases to describe objects and settings. We have also been learning to use commas in a list. Next week we will be continuing Jack and the Beanstalk and retelling the story as our Star Write.

In Maths we have been looking at 2D shapes and how to describe them. We have learnt to describe their sides, vertices and lines of symmetry. We then learnt how they can be sorted into different groups based on their properties.



Class Notes

What is the habitat like for your chosen animal?

In English this week, we have been learning about a range of different poems including kennings, limericks and haikus. We have been writing each of our poems about different African animals and have been able to share our work with each other. We particularly enjoyed trying to guess which animal was being described in our kennings. In PSHE, we learned about the LGBTQ+ community as it is Pride month this month. We created our own flags to represent ourselves. Although we have continued our topic of African adventure, we are now focusing on habitats and food chains for Science. We created food chains for some animals that we are familiar with and learned some important vocabulary such as producer and consumer. We have completed our Art project by using our printing blocks that we created before half term to make colourful prints inspired by Edward Tingatinga and Gakonga. In DT, we are starting a new project where we will be creating a zoo enclosure for an animal. We thought carefully about what our animal will need and researched its natural habitat to help us do this.

What are the features of a non-chronological report?

Welcome back Year 5! A great start to the term. Calm, collected and everyone working to the best of their ability – thank you all for such a smooth return.

In English, we have started looking at non chronological reports, and are linking this to our Geography unit on rivers. We are building up to writing our own reports on a particular famous river from around the world – this could be the Ganges, The Amazon, The Yangtze and many more.

In Maths, we are now adding and subtracting fractions quite confidently, and will soon next week be focussing on more investigations and problem solving group activities to consolidate what we have learnt already.

In Science, we investigated the effect of water resistance on varying different foil packets filled with marbles, and learnt a huge amount from several 'failed' investigations. We had to point out that in Science, there are NO failed investigations, just more wonderful learning points.

We have also started learning and rehearsing our lines and scenes for the Easter production, we are very excited indeed about the preparation surrounding this.

If you could create your own hieroglyphs, like the Maya, what would they look like?

This week, we have been exploring newspaper reports, in preparation for our next Star Write. The children have enjoyed creating headlines and the end of the story of 'A Series of Unfortunate events'. We have looked at using passive voice to create effects and its use in newspaper reports especially. This will be one of the features we expect them to use in their Star Write. In Maths, we have been exploring decimals in greater depths; revising our knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 and using it to add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals. Using related facts has been helpful to do this too. In History, we have been finding out how the Maya communicated and about their writing system, which was not dissimilar to the that of the Ancient Egyptians. This has allowed the children to make links with their prior learning - one of our pillars underpinning our curriculum.



Safeguarding

Supporting our children's safety

We've all been on the receiving end of a difficult conversation. But that doesn't make it any easier when you have to have one with your child. You might need to have a conversation where you:

- have to break some bad news
- have to ask about something you're worried about
- ask about topics you find comfortable - like sex or drugs
- ask your child if they're worried or scared by something
- ask your child about a new behaviour
- or anything else you feel will be difficult to bring up.

Whatever the subject, and however old the child you're talking to, there are lots of ways to make it easier for you both. We have advice to help you decide how to talk to your child in a way that's age-appropriate and supportive. However, you know your child best so trust your judgement about what will work for your family situation.

Why it's good to talk

It's important every child has someone they trust to look to for help. Childline is always here when they need someone to listen.

We all want children to grow up in a safe and loving environment and to become happy, confident adults. To get there there'll be times they need to talk to someone, for advice or for support. There will also be times when you need to explain something that might upset them.

As their parent or carer, it's up to you to talk to them when you think they might need a nudge in the right direction, or to share news or information that's going to affect their lives.

Before starting a difficult chat

Whatever it is you want to discuss, it's important to think about where and how to talk so children will listen.

1. There's no telling how long the conversation is going to last, so the first thing to consider is where and when you're going to start it. For example, if you start in the evening when they're tired, your child or children might not be able to concentrate.
2. If you're talking to just one child about something, consider how private the time and place are. It might work best to have it at a time when brothers and sisters aren't around to interrupt.
3. It could be good to have it in a relaxed and neutral place, like on a walk or in the car.

You could also ask other parents you know how they've created the right situation to talk about difficult topics in the past and see if it would work for you too.

For continued and further detailed advice and examples on how to discuss life-changing events with your children, follow this link to the NSPCC website.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

Are you regularly checking yours and your children's privacy settings and phone, device or gaming usage?

We encourage parents and carers to make regular use of the following websites with regards to keeping children safe online.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents www.childnet.com www.saferinternet.org.uk www.parentinfo.org
www.internetmatters.org www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety www.common-sense-media.org



DPS Links

School Nursing Duty Line

We have set up a duty School Nurse line to enable telephone contact for parents and young people to offer support to replace some current face-to-face contact at this time.
0208 770 5409

Useful links

All school information and communication www.classlist.com

Payment link for school dinners and class trips

www.pay360educationpayments.com/Home

Our website <http://www.dorchesterprimary.com/>

Use the website for our Twitter @DorchesterP

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/dorchesterprimary>

The value for this half term is Perseverance



Spring Menu 2022						
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One 03/01 24/01 21/02 14/03	Option 1	Lentil & Sweet Potato Curry with 50/50 Rice	Pork Sausages * with Potato Wedges	Roast Beef * with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Chilli * with 50/50 Rice	MSC Fish in Batter with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Vegetable & Bean Fajitas with 50/50 Rice	Vegan Sausages with Potato Wedges	Quorn Roast Fillet with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Vegetable Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Wholemeal Cheese & Tomato Quiche with Chips
	Vegetables	Peas Mixed Peppers	Baked Tomatoes Sweetcorn	Carrots Cabbage	Green Beans Cauliflower	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Pear & Strawberry Crumble with Custard	Rice Pudding with Berries	Fruit & Yoghurt Station	Ice Cream with Mandarins	Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Sauce
Week Two 10/01 31/01 28/02 21/03	Option 1	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Potato Wedges	Beef Bolognese * with Pasta	Roast Pork * with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	BBQ Chicken * with 50/50 Rice	MSC Fish Fingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Pasta	Shepherdess Pie with Gravy	Vegetable Pasty with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Cheese and Pepper Frittata with New Potatoes	Mexican Bean Roll with Chips
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn Broccoli	Carrots Peas	Fresh Mixed Vegetables	Sweetcorn Cauliflower	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Mixed Fruit Crumble with Custard	Fruit & Yoghurt Station	Vanilla Shortbread with Yoghurt	Apple Cake with Custard	Chocolate & Mandarin Brownie
Week Three 17/01 07/02 07/03 28/03	Option 1	Macaroni Cheese	Beef Burger in a Bun * with Wedges	Roast Chicken * with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Tikka * with 50/50 Rice	MSC Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Roasted Cauliflower Curry with 50/50 Rice	Quorn Burger in a Bun with Wedges	Vegetable Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Tomato and Lentil Pasta	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Chips
	Vegetables	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Baked Tomatoes Green Beans	Carrots Cauliflower	Roasted Vegetables Sweetcorn	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Lemon Drizzle Cake	Pear & Chocolate Crumble with Custard	Fruit & Yoghurt Station	Peach Upside Down Cake with Custard	Raspberry Jelly with Peaches

- Added Plant Power
- Vegan
- Wholemeal

Available Daily:

- Freshly cooked Jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings (where advertised)
- Bread freshly baked on site daily
- Daily salad selection

ALLERGY INFORMATION: If your child has an allergy or intolerance, please ask the school for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance, you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of cross-contamination.

* HALAL OPTION AVAILABLE



DPS Diary

4th March	World Book Day
8th March	International Women's Day
14th - 18th March	Science Week
21st March	Parents Evening Week
23rd March	Reading Meeting for Parents 1.30 – 2.30
25th March	Year 3/4 New Age Kurling SEND event
31st March	Nursery end of term
1st April	End of Spring 2 term
4th – 18th April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 19th April	First day of Summer 1 term
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 5th May	Polling Day – Year 6 in school only
9th – 11th May	SATS Week + Year 5 Residential
23rd - 27th May	Year 6 Residential
27th May	Last day of term
30th May – 3rd June	Half term
6th June	INSET DAY
7th June	First day of Summer 2 term
19th July	Nursery end of term
20st July	End of Summer 2 term
21st July	INSET Day