



DPS News

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"If you can visualise it you can do it. If you can think it, you can achieve it." Adam Peaty, Team GB Olympian

3rd September, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

A huge welcome back to the autumn term. It has been just lovely to have the children back in school; they have been amazing, showing really positive learning behaviours and looking after one another beautifully. It has been great to be able to hold whole school assemblies again – I got quite emotional at my first one – and, of course, to hear the children singing, which they do with such enthusiasm – what a joy!

There is lots of information to share in this week's newsletter, which I hope will give you a flavour of some of the exciting things to come during this academic year.

Welcome to Dorchester Primary: It has been a busy summer with admissions to our school and we are delighted to have welcomed so many new children to our community this week. Some of our new children are newly arrived in the UK from Hong Kong, others have recently moved to the local area. We are so pleased that you found your way to us and look forward to working with parents and families to enable the children to achieve their very best.

A huge Dorchester welcome to Yat Long Hugo, Sanaya, Sophia, Nela, Yee Shun, Si Yu Perzsi and Kai Yin Clarice in Year 2, Francisco, Nirshana, Pak Yui, and Yik Huen in Years 3/4 and Shahzar, Yee Him, Hei Long and Yuet Yin in Year 5.

We are delighted to have you with us.

New Staff and New Roles: We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our school this term, although both are already familiar to us. Bradley Stracey, who has worked at Dazzlers for several years, has been appointed as our Extended Services Leader and Carol Jenkinson, who coached our netballers during the spring and summer terms has been appointed as our Sports Assistant. These roles are both crucial in our school's journey as we take on our own running of Wrap Around Care and focus on enabling all our children to participate in a broad range of physical activity.

We have also appointed Julie Enright to the post of Home School Link Worker. As well as her ELSA role with children in school, Julie will now liaise more closely with families who may need extra support, whether that is due to bereavement or family breakdown, or support in securing good punctuality and attendance for children. Our team working with children who need additional support with their learning has also expanded – Hannah Phillips will take on additional responsibility for Speech and Language Support and Donna Lydon for Occupational Therapy.

We also now have our very own Forest Schools' Leader – Riad Zagher has taken on this role and has already thrown himself into his training over the summer – he is looking forward to sharing all things outdoors with the children. More information below.

Breakfast and After School Club: We are now running our own provision for Breakfast and After School Club. You can read more about these clubs [on our website](#) – while you are there you can take a look around our all new site.

Website: You may have noticed that our new website is now 'live'. Over the next couple of weeks we will ensure it is up to date with all the relevant information for this academic year. The site has some useful add ons and we hope to be able to use it to move over to online bookings for Breakfast and After School Club and other co-curricular clubs over the next few weeks.

Summer Flooding: Right back at the start of the holiday you may remember a torrential downpour one Sunday evening. Unfortunately, the water infiltrated parts of our school building so lots has been going on over the summer to make sure the school was restored. We needed to have the building surveyors in to identify the root cause of the issue, and have carpets cleaned or replaced, new coats of paint, ceiling tiles replaced and much more. We are hugely grateful to Tracy, our School Business Manager, and Luke, our Caretaker, for all the extra work that this entailed. There are still bits of remedial work going on around the school, taking place in the main at weekends.

Play: Another more positive piece of work taking place over the summer has been the redevelopment of our Reception Outdoor Area. Really high quality play is going to be crucial to support children, who have missed out on so many opportunities for social development as a result of the pandemic. I hope you agree that the area looks amazing and we can't wait for it to be filled with our incoming Reception children next week.



We have put a bid in for funding to also redevelop the outside area for our nursery children via the Sutton Neighbourhood Fund. The big idea here is that this area would not only be used to benefit our nursery children, but that we would also host Come and Play sessions for parents with very young children in the local community. Safe, outdoor play spaces are currently limited for these children and we hope that the new area (if the funding is approved) will provide a space where pre-school children can play collaboratively, safely challenge themselves physically and a place where new parents can meet and get to know and support one another. To support our project please complete the consultation [here](#) highlighting the importance of parents and young children having a safe and stimulating place to go. The more people who support our project, the more likely we are to get receive funding. Thank you.

Our older children won't be left out either as one of our priorities this year is to improve play for all our children. We believe that play is something that supports learning and is part of learning – it is not something children do in-between learning. Look out for more information about our Outdoor Play and Learning Project over the next few weeks.

Forest Schools

Another introduction this year is Forest Schools. The children have timetabled sessions for Forest Schools for all or part of the year – sessions will take place in Quietopia or in other areas of the school site. Your child's class teacher will let you know when the Forest School sessions will be for your child. If it is wet on their Forest School day we recommend that the children bring wellies with them so that they can get more from the experience – it is also recommended that they wear long trousers with their PE Kit for these sessions to protect their legs from scratches and scrapes.

We will share further information with you about the curriculum that the children will cover in these sessions shortly – they are going to really enjoy them as well as extending their knowledge and skills in this area.

Voluntary Roles at School

It is fantastic that we are now allowed to have volunteers back in school with us. We are looking for volunteers for:

Reading – we are putting a great focus on reading this year and want to make as many opportunities for children to read with adults as we can; unfortunately some of our children do not benefit from having adults hear them read each day at home, so for these, and indeed for all our children, having additional adults to hear readers in school will be a real bonus. If you are able to spare some time for this we will offer training to make sure your time is spent as effectively as possible.

Class Representatives – we are also looking for a Class Rep from each class to support us in communicating effectively with parents and carers. This role involves attending Parent Council meetings and FODs meetings once each term and communicating with parents in your child's class.

FODS (Friends of Dorchester School) – we are looking for as many parents as possible to get involved with FODS. At the moment a very small number of people do an awful lot of work to make sure funds are raised and events are organised. We know parents have brilliant ideas and we want to tap into as many of those as possible. So if you are a great organiser, or have creative ideas, or can spare half an hour every now and again to wrap gifts for the sweet tombola, we would love you to step up.

Sharing Expertise – Have you climbed Kilimanjaro? Do you work in an unusual or interesting field? Have you built your own home? Or achieved something brilliant on the sports field? If so we would love to hear from you. We are always on the lookout for people who can inspire our children to achieve great things – if you fit the bill, or know someone who does, please let us know.

If you can help with any of these roles please complete the form [here](#). We will be in touch soon.

Young Leadership Roles

Another of our focuses this year is to extend the opportunities our children have to take leadership roles across the school. We will be introducing Big Friends/Little Friends, where we pair our Year 6 children with Reception children; this supports our youngest children in settling into the school and gives our oldest children the responsibility of helping and supporting younger children. We are also introducing Class Ambassadors and Mentors as well as continuing with our School Council and Junior Supremo programmes.

To further extend the opportunity for children across the age ranges to work together we will be re-introducing our house system. We would like to come up with new house names – named after people who inspire our children. We will be talking to the children about this in assembly next week and will send you further details following this.

Co-curricular Clubs

We are aware that many of you are waiting for information about co-curricular clubs starting this term. Our clubs will start week commencing 13th September and details will be sent to you early next week.

Such a lot of information to share this week; I hope it gives you a flavour of some of the exciting things that are going on in school- we are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Cathy Bell
Headteacher



Class Notes

What have you enjoyed most about Year 1 so far?

Year 1 were so excited about coming back to school this week and it has been lovely to see everyone's smiling faces! We have had a fantastic couple of days of playing with our friends, listening to stories and doing some writing. We talked about our new topic Digging for Dinosaurs and we thought about some questions we would like to know about dinosaurs. In Maths, we have been counting and sorting objects in different ways. What a great start to Year 1 we've had! We can't wait to see the children's learning over the next year.

What have you enjoyed in Year 2 so far?

Year 2 have enjoyed their first couple of days back and have settled in well. The children have loved playing and catching up with their friends. We have explored our new classrooms and created target boards with our own targets for the year. We have recapped the Zones of Regulation in PSHE, exploring and identifying our different emotions. In Maths, we have been counting and representing numbers to 100. Well done Year 2 and we can't wait to see what you achieve this year!

What strategy did you use to build your tower and why?

Year 3 and 4 have had a great start to the year in their new classes, thinking about what it means to work collaboratively. We are learning lots of new things about our new class mates and adults. We have recapped how to use the Zones of Regulation to express our emotions. We have been inspired by all the new reading books we have in school and look forward to reading them as we move throughout the year. We can't wait to find out what adventures year 3 and 4 get up to this year.

What are you most looking forward to in Year 5 and why?

Year 5 have loved being back in school for the last two days, and the children have been stars. We have focused on PSHE, recapping the Zones of Regulation and school rules. We have set targets for our learning and we are beginning to get used to our new classrooms. Everyone is excited to begin reading the new books we have in school, and once every child has been read with, Reading Folders and books will be sent home. We have so much to look forward to!

What have you enjoyed about being in Year 6 so far?

It has been lovely to get to know the children more in Year 6 and they have made a great start. One of the most exciting things has been sitting on the benches in assembly - a real privilege! We have had an exciting start to our Geography topic about Brazil and have sampled some Brazilian fruits, empanadas made by Riad and of course, one of the Brazilian rainforests greatest products - dark chocolate! The children are enjoying their new reading folders and have already made a fantastic start, by reading so avidly in the two days we have been back at school. Well done!



Safeguarding

Supporting our children's safety

Parents and carers often appreciate extra advice and support. This might be about how to cope with a crying baby; working out whether a child is old enough to walk home from school alone; or thinking about how to keep their child safe online. Here, you will find weekly selected advice and information for you to access.

Keeping children safe at school

It's a good idea to keep talking to your child about school, even if nothing seems wrong. Ask them about their day – but try not to badger them. It's important that if anything happens, they feel like they can talk to you about it.

As children grow up and start going to school, it's also important to talk to them about their safety and what to look out for. It's a tricky conversation to have – but we've got lots of resources to help.

If your child is younger, use our friendly dinosaur Pantosaurus to help you [Talk PANTS](#).

If your child is older, we have advice about [having tricky conversations](#).

If your child is starting school

Going to nursery or primary school can be a scary time for young children. It's normal for them to need some time to adjust to their new routine and environment.

- To help them get used to their new school or nursery, you could try:
- getting into a good routine the week before, going to bed and waking up earlier
- talking through the school day with them, including playtimes and lunch time
- making sure your child knows who is collecting them and from where
- practice recognising their own name and the name of their teacher or teaching assistant

If children are going back after a holiday

It's common for children to feel nervous about going back to school after the holidays or the summer. To help calm their nerves and make sure they're prepared for the school term you could try:

- readjusting bed times the week before they go back, to get into a healthy routine
- making sure they aren't bringing their mobiles, tablets, or any devices to bed that might stop them sleeping
- helping them get the correct clothing or uniform and equipment ready the week before
- making sure they eat breakfast each morning

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/onlinesafety

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

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Useful links

All school information and communication www.classlist.com

Payment link for school dinners and class trips www.pay360educationpayments.com

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 **Responsibility.**
“The price of greatness is responsibility.”
Winston Churchill

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One 30/08 20/09 11/10 08/11 29/11	Option 1	Macaroni Cheese	Pork Sausages * with Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken * with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Lasagne * with Garlic Bread	MSC Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Vegetable and Bean Fajitas with 50/50 Rice	Vegan Sausage with Potato Wedges	Vegetable Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Tomato and Lentil Pasta with Garlic Bread	Hominy Pie with Chips
	Vegetables	Green Beans Carrots	Baked Tomatoes Sweetcorn	Cauliflower Broccoli	Roasted Vegetables Sweetcorn	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard	Oaty Cookie	Fruit and Yoghurt Station	Mandarin Jelly	Carrot & Courgette Cake with Custard
Week Two 06/09 27/09 18/10 15/11 06/12	Option 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with New Potatoes	Macaroni Beef * Pasta Bake	Roast Gammon * with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Mediterranean Chicken * with Rice	MSC Fish Fingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Vegetable Tagine with Couscous	Roasted Cauliflower Curry with Rice	Roasted Quorn with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Vegetarian Lasagne	Mexican Bean Roll with Chips
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn Broccoli	Peppers Carrots	Carrots Cabbage	Green Beans Cauliflower	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Pear Crumble with Custard	Chocolate Shortbread	Fruit and Yoghurt Station	Peach Upside Down Cake with Custard	Apple Flapjack
Week Three 13/09 04/10 01/11 22/11 13/12	Option 1	Vegetarian Tortilla Stack with Rice	Beef Burger * with Wedges	Roast Turkey * with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Arrabiata Pasta Bake	MSC Fish in Batter with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Quorn Burger with jacket Wedges	Mixed Vegetable Loaf with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Wholemeal Vegetable Pasta Bake	BBQ Quorn with Chips
	Vegetables	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Garden Peas Carrots	Carrot and Swede Mash Cabbage	Green Beans Cauliflower	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Rice Pudding with Mixed Berries	Apple Cake with Custard	Pinwheel Cookie	Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Sauce	Fresh Fruit Salad

- 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 a member of the catering team 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.

* HALAL OPTION AVAILABLE



DPS Diary

6th September	National Read a Book day!
7th September	Year 5 and Year 6 High school talk 4.30 – 5.30
30th September	Nursery coffee morning and afternoon
1st October	Start of Black History Month
5th October	World Teachers Day
12th October	Year 1 Dinosaur morning + High School applications drop in parents session 3.30 - 4 .15
15th October	Reading and Phonics parent drop in session 2-3pm
18th October	High School applications drop in parents session 3.30 - 4 .15
22nd October	SET INSET DAY
25th – 29th October	Half term
1st November	First day of Autumn 2 term
4th November	Nursery parents phonics workshops 8.45am & 2pm
12th November	Reception phonics workshop for parents 9-10am
15th November	Transgender Awareness Week
16th – 17th November	Individual Class Photos
29th November	Booklet Week
7th December	Foundation Stage Nativities 9.15am & 2.15pm
14th December	Year 2 Nativity 9.30am & 1.30pm
16th December	Nursery end of term
17th December	End of Autumn 2 term
20th Dec – 3rd Jan	Christmas Holidays
4th January	INSET DAY
5th January	First day of Spring 1 term
11th February	Last day of Spring 1 term
14th – 18th Feb	Half term
21st February	First day of Spring 2 term
30th March	Nursery end of term
31st March	End of Spring 2 term
1st – 18th April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 19th April	First day of Summer 1 term
9th – 11th May	SATS Week + Year 5 Residential
16th – 20th	Year 6 Residential

27th May	Last day of Summer 1 term
30th May – 3rd June	Half term
6th June	INSET DAY
7th June	First day of Summer 2 term
20th July	Nursery end of term
21st July	End of Summer 2 term
22nd July	INSET Day