



DPS News

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"And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:6

17th December, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

How time flies! The end of another fantastic term, and, despite having some Covid related hiccups along the way, we can be very grateful that we were uninterrupted by lockdowns and that the children have been able to 'crack on' with in-school learning. The end of this term also marks the end of my first year at Dorchester; I am truly grateful to you all for making me so welcome – it has been a busy and fulfilling year and I am looking forward to all that we can achieve together in 2022 and beyond.

As is typical of this time of year, we have included a special newsletter feature below in which you can read a round-up of just some of the highlights of this year – there have been many, and there is certainly lots to celebrate and be thankful for.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at school. We are blessed with such a fantastic and committed team here who together go above and beyond to provide our children with the very best opportunities. We are extremely grateful to you all for the many lovely comments and gifts we have received ahead of the Christmas break – on behalf of everyone, thank you for your kindness and generosity.

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Luck, as he moves on to pastures new. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Luck for all he has contributed during his time at Dorchester; our very best wishes go with you Sam.

It just remains for me to wish you and yours many blessings this Christmas time; may your holidays be filled with joy, peace and good health.

Kind regards

Cathy Bell
Headteacher





Notices

Dorchester Primary School Holiday Club

Do you need more time to prepare for Christmas?

Our Holiday Club is running on Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd of December.

More details about the club and booking details can be found at <https://www.dorchesterprimary.com/page/?title=Wrap%2Daround+Care&pid=64>

We look forward to seeing your children there.



Review of 2021

Introduction of Forest Schools

We were delighted to be able to introduce a Forest Schools programme for all our children from September. Forest Schools has been shown to boost children's confidence and motivation by giving them the freedom, time and space to learn and demonstrate independence. It also enables the children to develop an interest in their natural surroundings and respect for the environment, as well as physical skills. The children have engaged in a variety of activities already such as completing sensory trails, whittling sticks and of course, the children's favourite – how to perfectly toast a marshmallow!



Developing Children's Leadership Roles

A big focus this academic year is developing children's leadership roles within the school. We have introduced Class Ambassadors and Big Friends/Little Friends (a buddy system between our Reception and Year 6 children). Our Year 6 prefects have led tours for prospective parents and done so admirably, showing great pride in their school and all we achieve here. We have also introduced the Micro Duke, Mini Duke and Junior Duke awards, which allow the children to develop their leadership skills and develop new talents relevant to their age group.

Focus on Reading

It is widely recognised that children who are confident readers have greater levels of success right across the curriculum. We were fortunate to be able to use some of our funding to purchase a brand new reading scheme to engage children from our earliest readers right up to our most able Year 6 readers. We are also investing in ensuring we are using high quality books right across the curriculum to deliver foundation subjects such as history and geography. It is wonderful to see parents supporting children's reading at home and helping their child to earn those all important reading stickers.

Development of Reception Outdoor Area

Over the summer break we were able to redevelop the Reception Outdoor Learning Area. The children now benefit from a large sand pit and pebble play area, a mud kitchen, dinosaur bone digging area, a large stage, growing troughs, a reading nook, a climbing frame and much more besides. Our Early Years team have always used their outside space so creatively and are taking full advantage of the new areas to further enhance the children's learning experience.



Focus on Sport

At the beginning of this academic year we recruited a second sports coach, Carol, to work with the wonderful George on delivering high quality sports and PE lessons to our children. This means that our children benefit from 3 PE sessions per week, which this term have included specialist cricket coaching for some year groups too. We have also been able to get our co-curricular sports clubs up and running – basketball, cross country, football, hockey, multisports and netball all being popular choices. We have been able to take part in a variety of competitive and friendly fixtures and tournaments with other schools – although in the last couple of weeks several matches have been cancelled by other schools and organisers due to high covid numbers. As you will have read in the newsletters, all of our teams are representing their school brilliantly; lots of success and great teamwork and sportsmanship – we couldn't ask for more.



Chess Club

Who knew that our children were such brilliant chess players? Since the introduction of chess club in February the club has gone from strength to strength. We were lucky enough to be visited by a Chess Grand Master earlier this year, who took the children on in a round robin game – with one of our teams telling me he was ‘easy to beat’ – obviously some great talent there.



Breakfast and After School Club and Holiday Club

Since September we have been successfully running our own breakfast and after school provision. This means that we can admit more children to the clubs to better meet the needs of our working parents. We were fortunate to recruit Bradley as our Club Leader as his experience in providing high quality wrap around care, coupled with his enthusiasm, has meant the club is really popular and is going from strength to strength. Next week sees our first Holiday Club – a provision we will continue to develop in the coming months.



Music Development

It has been lovely to reintroduce some of our peripatetic music teaching back into school, and, of course, to have our choir back in action. The Choir are currently preparing for the Young Voices concert which will be held at the O2 Arena next term. Music lessons were quite tricky to deliver remotely so it is great to be able to have Ukelele lessons in person for children in Years 3 and 4 and to see the music curriculum in full swing. We have recruited Tom Wyman, a professional musician, to lead music sessions for year 5 and 6 – his passion and enthusiasm for music is inspirational, which in turn, reflects in our children's learning. Of course it is fantastic that children can once again sing in school – we know that singing is great for the soul and it makes a big difference.

Eco-Council

Our Eco Council is in full swing with lots of work already done to reduce waste at school and to make sure our paper is recycled. Our children made climate change pledges during COP26 and we were fortunate enough to have our pledges added to the tree at the actual summit in Glasgow – thanks to one of our parents who was working there. The Council have also run a successful Bags4Schools recycling initiative and a poster design competition to raise awareness across the school. There are lots of plans afoot to move the green agenda forward – and the children are certainly leading the way.



Curriculum Development

We have continued to develop our curriculum in many areas this year. As well as the introduction of Forest Schools, and the focuses on sports/PE and Reading we have introduced the mental maths certificate and badge scheme, where the children achieve their purple, bronze, silver, gold and platinum badges as they work through their mental maths targets. We continue to develop our curriculum in line with our 5 pillars – Collaboration, Connectivity, Enquiry, Learning for Life and Ambition and Fairness at the centre – and are looking carefully at the knowledge we want the children to acquire in each area of the curriculum to ensure that their learning is profound and meaningful.

Working with SET schools

We continue to develop our work with the Sutton Education Trust, making sure that staff across all the schools in the Trust can network and benefit from each others' skills and experience, and that training opportunities are shared. We are fortunate to be part of such a proactive group of schools. There are cross school events being planned for next year which gives our children a fantastic opportunity to work alongside children in other schools.



Friends of Dorchester School

We had a record turnout (for recent years anyway) at the Autumn Term FODS meeting, and it has been lovely to enjoy events they have organised this term. The discos in October proved really popular with the children, the reindeer visit was really special and the Christmas Fayre was amazing, such a wonderful atmosphere and raising over £3,500 for the school – what an achievement. It was fabulous to see so many more parents and carers volunteering to help with the event. A big thank you to FODS for all they do to raise funds for the school – and thank you so much for all you have bought for the school this year – our new Outdoor Classroom is amazing.



Charity Events

We have been overwhelmed by your generosity in supporting our charity events this year. The big one – the joint SET event in celebration of Captain Sir Tom Moore's 100th birthday raised an amazing total of £28,000 for the Epsom and St Helier Hospitals' Charity. We have also raised funds for Save the Children through our Christmas Jumper Day, made a substantial donation to the Foodbank at Harvest and raised almost £800 for the Royal British Legion, to name but a few. Of course, raising money is a great thing to do, but these events are also important to raise children's awareness of the world around them and help them to understand that they can, and do, make a difference.





Safeguarding

Supporting our children's safety

Christmas brings a flurry of activity, with presents to buy, rooms to decorate, meals to plan, and friends and family to entertain. By building safety into your Christmas planning, you can keep the day as stress-free as possible and make sure your family enjoys a safe and fun time.

So we've rounded up 10 top tips to help you keep your children safe over Christmas:

- 1. Shop wisely and buy toys that meet safety requirements** - When shopping for Christmas presents, always head to reputable retailers, who take care about the products they stock year-round. Markets or temporary shops often sell illegally imported toys that are unlikely to conform to strict toy safety requirements. Counterfeit goods may have low prices but are illegal, are not made to proper safety standards and can be dangerous for little ones.
- 2. Ensure toys are age appropriate** - Make sure that the toys you give are appropriate for the child's age, as babies and toddlers can choke on small parts or swallow harmful components. Toys that are not intended for very young children are clearly marked.
- 3. Keep small things out of your child's reach** - Look out for small things that young children can choke on. Put small decorations high out of reach, tidy away small plastic toys from crackers and put small batteries (particularly the round, silver ones) out of reach of little fingers.
- 4. Sleep safety and child-proofing away from home** - If you're staying with relatives or friends over Christmas, remember that the top bunk of bunk beds can be dangerous for children under 6 years. And bear in mind that safety items you might have at home, such as stairgates and cupboard locks, might not be available where you're staying.
- 5. Keep the stairs clear** - On the big day itself, make sure stairs are free from clutter. Children will be rushing around to find visitors, open presents and play with their new toys, so remove things that could cause a bad fall down stairs.
- 6. Keep children out of the kitchen** - The kitchen can be a hectic place on Christmas day. So keep young children out of the kitchen while you're preparing Christmas dinner and all the trimmings, to avoid burns and scalds. One in 10 children's accidents happen in the kitchen.
- 7. Remove alcohol** - Clear away any bottles of alcohol and the last dregs of drinks left in glasses as even small amounts of alcohol can poison young children.
- 8. Lock away medicines** - Make sure visitors to the house, such as grandparents, don't leave medicines in places where children can find them, for example in handbags or counted out on bedside cabinets. Medicines are the most common cause of accidental poisoning in children, with everyday painkillers a frequent culprit.
- 9. Be cautious with candles** - Keep candles away from Christmas trees and decorations. And don't hang decorations from lights and heaters, as they can catch alight and burn easily.
- 10. Turn off Christmas fairy lights and check smoke alarms** - Remember to turn off fairy lights and blow out candles before heading to bed. And check that your smoke alarms are working, so there's time to get out if a fire does start.

With help from [The Child Accident Prevention Trust \(CAPT\)](#) and the [British Toy and Hobby Association](#).

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 **Empathy.**



Spring Menu 2022					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One					
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					
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					
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 the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of cross-contamination.

* HALAL OPTION AVAILABLE



DPS Diary

20th Dec – 3rd Jan	Christmas Holidays
4th January	INSET DAY
5th January	First day of Spring 1 term
12th January	Nursery Open Morning 10.30-11.30 and EYFS Open Afternoon 2-3pm
14th January	Young Voices Choir Event - Postponed
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
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
20th July	End of Summer 2 term
21st July	INSET Day