



DPS News

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead.

11th March, 2022

Dear Parents

It has been a busy week in school, with Covid making a very real comeback throughout our community but particularly in some of our junior classes. A good time to remind ourselves about remaining vigilant about hygiene and especially handwashing which seems to make such a difference. At least the warmer weather makes having the windows open a much more pleasant experience than it was a few weeks ago – spring is definitely in the air.



Despite the Covid numbers creeping up, our Dorchester children have had fantastic opportunities to compete in sporting competitions this week. Our girls' football team won the accolade of representing Fulham Football Club at the Premier League Primary Stars Tournament this week. We have also participated in a girls' cricket event and had a football match versus St Cecilia's and participated in a netball tournament. Reports of all these events are on our sports page below – but wanted to highlight here just how amazingly all the children have represented their school, giving of their best and showing real pride in being part of the Dorchester community. I'm sure you'll agree that our new netball kits look superb too – thank you to FODS, and all of you who support FODS' events for contributing towards the new kit.

One of our families have asked us if we are going to do anything specific in terms of fundraising support for Ukrainian refugees. It is clearly very difficult to teach the children about the subject of war at an age appropriate level, although we have talked to them about it largely from the point of view of the scale of help that is being offered to those who need it. We are mindful of the feelings of the Ukrainian and Russian families in our community, as well as other families who are directly affected by the ongoing situation. Next Friday we are joining in with Comic Relief Red Nose Day by inviting the children to come in wearing something red, and/or a red nose (named please!) in return for a bucket donation, and we know that Comic Relief are focused on supporting Ukrainian Refugees as well as other worthwhile projects at home and overseas. We are aware that with cost of living increases some families are struggling at the moment so please give only as generously as you are able into the buckets.

Next week there will be much excitement in EYFS as work takes place to improve our Nursery outdoor area from Tuesday. This has been made possible through a successful grant bid which has resulted in Sutton Neighbourhood Fund donating £63,055 towards the project, which begun with the redevelopment of our Reception outdoor area. Parents of children in Nursery will receive more information about how this will change things at drop off and collection for the children and how we will reduce any impact on their school day. The children are just very excited about having 'real builders' on site and I am sure they will enjoy seeing their machinery in action – from a safe distance of course!

Enjoy the weekend.

Cathy Bell
Headteacher



Notices

Important – School Gates

One important safety notice please: can we remind all parents and pupils to be respectful of the school gates – we have seen incidents of children climbing on them whilst in parent's supervision, and at times putting their fingers in dangerous parts of the gates mechanisms, again whilst with parents nearby. We would hate to see anyone seriously injured through misuse of the school gates, and we also would not like to see the gates damaged further as repairs in the past have been quite costly – we would much prefer to spend money on children's education than on more gate repairs!

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.**



Red Nose Day 18th March



On Friday 18th March we will be celebrating Red Nose Day.

This year's theme is 'Funny is Power!' For a £1 donation per family, children can wear something funny, something red or just come wearing mufti clothes - the choice is theirs. There will be various fun activities taking place in school on this day for the children.

We will not be selling red noses in school this year, if children would like to wear red noses on this day this will be OK, but please can we ask that they write their names on their red nose so that we can minimise the risk of spreading germs.

Where does Red Nose Day money go? The money raised by Comic Relief is spent to help poor and disadvantaged people in the UK and the world's poorest communities, so whatever our Dorchester community can raise towards this will be extremely helpful indeed.



Sport

Borough 5 a side Netball Tournament at St Philomena's.



Eight teams entered this Borough round robin competition and due to the short 7 minute matches, many of the score lines were extremely tight making it a closely fought tournament. The format was rotation based, meaning that all the players had to move positions in each game and play in all areas of the court. The girls rose to this challenge brilliantly, adapting their play to attacking, shooting and defending effectively. It was an excellent all-round team performance and finishing in fourth was a very positive achievement but even more importantly than that the girls should be extremely proud of the high quality of the netball they played and the brilliant ambassadors they were for the school. Well done girls.

Year 6 Boys Football

Yesterday, at Nescot the year six boys played against St Cecilia's.

We played brilliantly with amazing passing and exceptional teamwork. The first half went well for us as we were leading 3-0. In the second half we scored 4 goals to make it 7-0!

The team line up was: Fung, Alfie(cap), Ronnie, Priyansh, Ben, Louie, Harrison, Harvey, Mason and Cameron.

Our formation was a: 3-2-2-1 with super Fung in goal.

Next Match? We do not know right now, but we are ready for our next game!

By Alfie and Cameron.

Girls' Premier League Primary Stars Football Tournament



Our girls' football team qualified to represent Fulham Football Club at the Premier League Primary Stars tournament earlier this week. There was some stiff competition from teams representing other Premier League clubs but our girls did themselves proud with a few draws amidst a few losses in their matches. The highlight of the day was having their photo taken with the real, yes – the real – Premier League Trophy.

Thank you for representing us so brilliantly and well done girls.

Surrey Girls' Cricket

A group of girls from Years 3 and 4 were invited to attend the Surrey Hundred Roadshow cricket skills event. The event was designed to raise the profile of girls' cricket. The girls took part in some skills training and circuits and had their photo taken with the Hundred Trophy as well as having the opportunity to meet and ask questions to professional female cricketer players. The girls did really well and were fabulous ambassadors for our school. Good job everyone.





Class Notes



What is your favourite fruit and why?

This week in **Nursery** we have read the story of Oliver's Fruit Salad by Vivian French. In this story Oliver talks about all of the lovely, fresh fruits that Grandpa grows in his garden. When he goes shopping with his mother they discover some more exotic fruits like pineapples that Grandpa cannot grow. We have been tasting lots of different fruits and talked about how to prepare them to make our own fruit salads. We have also been looking closely at a variety of fruits and creating some lovely still life pictures using pastels. The children have been developing their fine motor skills by using different tools to juice lemons and limes and extracting seeds from different fruits. We have also been talking about why fruit is good for us. For our Phonics learning we have been playing Silly Soup and thinking about rhyming words. In Maths we have been using play dough and five frames to think about the different ways to make 5.



How many ways can you make 10?

This week the children in **Reception** have been thinking about what it's like to move house. We have children who have moved home within the UK and others who have moved around the world as well as children who will be moving soon. We read the book *The Berenstain Bears Moving Day* by Stan and Jan Berenstain. The Bears moved from their hillside cave to a valley tree house that needed quite a lot of work. The book talks about how leaving their friends is tough, but you can keep in touch and also making new friends can be exciting. Our children have made their own houses from boxes. They have constructed lollipop houses and drawn their own families in them. Maps of our journey to school have been drawn, with care taken to include landmarks that are seen along the way. Outside the children have worked together to move heavy logs and other items around the playground as they have practised being removal people. As some of our children have moved around the world, we sang the [7 continents song by Hopscotch](#) which can be found on YouTube. The children have really enjoyed learning the names of the continents and finding out that we all live in Europe.

In Maths we have been investigating number bonds that make 10. The [Numberblocks](#) have helped us to learn which two numbers go together to make 10, and we have been using real biscuits on a 10 frame to help us write number sentences to support our learning. We have also learnt the following song to the tune of 'Row, row, row your boat' - 9 and 1 are number bonds, 8 and 2 are friends. 7 and 3, 6 and 4, 5 and 5 make 10.



Class Notes



Where are your taste buds?

The children in **Year 1** have been very busy this week and worked hard on their English booklets.

The children have completed a Reading booklet all about the lifecycle of a butterfly, where they read the text and answered questions about what they had read. A Grammar and Spelling booklet where they improved sentences, rewrote a jumbled sentence and thought of a question starting with what.

In Maths, we have introduced numbers to 50 where the children have practiced their counting skills and shown how to represent the number using a ten frame. We have also looked at finding 1 more and 1 less than a number to 50.

In Science, the children had great fun exploring their sense of taste. They all enjoyed trying the different foods, even the lemon, and describing how they tasted. We have looked at our sense of smell where the children enjoyed describing what they could smell in the different pots.

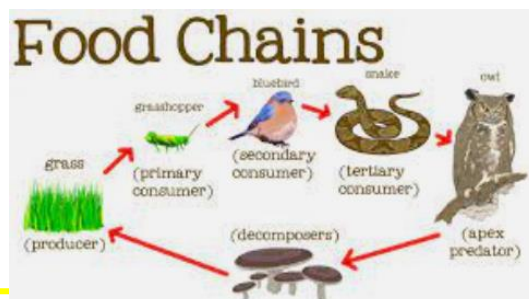
In History, we have looked at who lives in a castle and focused on Windsor Castle. The children produced some excellent drawings of the castle and carefully labelled the different parts.

Can you name different sources of food?

This week the children in **Year 2** have all worked really hard completing their Reading and SPaG booklets. We have been really pleased with all the progress that they have made. We are looking forward to seeing how they do in their Maths booklets next week.

In Maths we have been looking at telling time to the nearest 5 minutes. The children have persevered despite finding it tricky.

In Science we have been looking at different sources of food. In Geography we have located China on a map and looked at the surrounding countries. We then used Google Slides to create a presentation about what we have learnt so far about China.





Class Notes

How are fractions and decimals related?

This week, **Year 3/4** have completed our reading, spelling and grammar booklets and have tried our best to show off everything that we can do! We have also continued to learning about different habitats that animals live in and how different organisms are adapted to suit their environments. We learned about all the ways that animals and plants can be classified and looked at different diagrams and keys that can help us to sort living creatures. As part of our African Adventure topic, we have been learning about other children's lives in Malawi and compared them to our own to find similarities and differences. In Computing, we have been gathering research about a variety of African countries so that we can use this on our own webpages. In Year 3, we have been learning all about fractions and how these can be represented. In Year 4, we have been applying our knowledge of fractions to learn about decimals.

What unique or interesting additions might you add to improve your apple pie recipe?

Year 5 have been busy showing off what they know in their SPAG and Reading booklets this week, and well done to all of them for their hard work on these. As well as this, and more importantly - we have been tasting apple pies! We were analysing the various tastes and textures of a variety of different off the shelf supermarket pies to conduct our own market research. This deliciously fun session will serve to inspire ideas for how we will eventually be planning our own tweaked recipes when we bake our own apple pies.

In Maths, we have been multiplying fractions, and specifically we have been looking at partitioning the whole numbers and multiplying them first, and also converting fractions to improper then multiplying as usual.

In English, we have been continuing with researching and writing up our notes on the great rivers on the world, which is our English and Geography writing topic.

In PSHE, we discussed the various different gestation periods of different animals and were extremely surprised to find out that the gestation period of a hamster is a mere 16 days! And that a Mayfly's is only 5 minutes!

What surprised you most about the changing role of women in World War Two?

This week, **Year 6** have been exploring the changing roles of women both during World War Two and afterwards. They have explored some of the jobs they undertook to support the war effort and then considered what happened when the war was over. The children were shocked to discover some of the attitudes that existed and took part in a lively discussion around how the role of women has changed since the war. This is a theme we will be continuing to explore in the Summer term, as our History topic looks at Britain since the war, right up to current times. In Maths, we have been continuing to apply our knowledge of area and perimeter to increasingly complex problems. This has allowed us to discuss and teach one of our pillars that underpin our entire curriculum: Learners for Life. By giving the children opportunities to practise challenging problems, we can show how by 'chunking' a large problem into smaller, achievable tasks that we can do, can help us to learn more. In Science this week, we have been exploring how reflections happen in our topic about Light. The experiment allowed us to revise our protractor skills to measure angles at which the torchlight bounced off the mirror.



Safeguarding

Supporting our children's safety

Dealing with child behaviour problems

There are lots of possible reasons for difficult behaviour in toddlers and young children. Often it's just because they're tired, hungry, overexcited, frustrated or bored.

How to handle difficult behaviour

If problem behaviour is causing you or your child distress, or upsetting the rest of the family, it's important to deal with it.

Do what feels right

What you do has to be right for your child, yourself and the family. If you do something you do not believe in or that you do not feel is right, it probably will not work. Children notice when you do not mean what you're saying.

Do not give up

Once you've decided to do something, continue to do it. Solutions take time to work. Get support from your partner, a friend, another parent or your health visitor. It's good to have someone to talk to about what you're doing.

Be consistent

Children need consistency. If you react to your child's behaviour in one way one day and a different way the next, it's confusing for them. It's also important that everyone close to your child deals with their behaviour in the same way.

Try not to overreact

This can be difficult. When your child does something annoying time after time, your anger and frustration can build up.

It's impossible not to show your irritation sometimes, but try to stay calm. Move on to other things you can both enjoy or feel good about as soon as possible.

Find other ways to cope with your frustration, like talking to other parents.

Talk to your child

Children do not have to be able to talk to understand. It can help if they understand why you want them to do something. For example, explain why you want them to hold your hand while crossing the road.

Once your child can talk, encourage them to explain why they're angry or upset. This will help them feel less frustrated.

Be positive about the good things

When a child's behaviour is difficult, the things they do well can be overlooked. Tell your child when you're pleased about something they've done. You can let your child know when you're pleased by giving them attention, a hug or a smile.

Offer rewards

You can help your child by rewarding them for good behaviour. For example, praise them or give them their favourite food for tea.

If your child behaves well, tell them how pleased you are. Be specific. Say something like, "Well done for putting your toys back in the box when I asked you to."

Do not give your child a reward before they've done what they were asked to do. That's a bribe, not a reward.

Avoid smacking

Smacking may stop a child doing what they're doing at that moment, but it does not have a lasting positive effect.

Children learn by example so, if you hit your child, you're telling them that hitting is OK. Children who are treated aggressively by their parents are more likely to be aggressive themselves. It's better to set a good example instead.



Safeguarding

Supporting our children's safety (continued)

Things that can affect your child's behaviour

Life changes – any change in a child's life can be difficult for them. This could be the birth of a new baby, moving house, a change of childminder, starting playgroup or something much smaller.

You're having a difficult time – children are quick to notice if you're feeling upset or there are problems in the family. They may behave badly when you feel least able to cope. If you're having problems do not blame yourself, but do not blame your child either if they react with difficult behaviour.

How you've handled difficult behaviour before – sometimes your child may react in a particular way because of how you've handled a problem in the past. For example, if you've given your child sweets to keep them quiet at the shops, they may expect sweets every time you go there.

Needing attention – your child might see a tantrum as a way of getting attention, even if it's bad attention. They may wake up at night because they want a cuddle or some company. Try to give them more attention when they're behaving well and less when they're being difficult.

Toddler tantrum tips

Find out why the tantrum is happening - Your child may be tired or hungry, in which case the solution is simple. They could be feeling frustrated or jealous, maybe of another child. They may need time, attention and love, even though they're not being very loveable.

Understand and accept your child's anger - You probably feel the same way yourself at times, but you can express it in other ways.

Find a distraction - If you think your child is starting a tantrum, find something to distract them with straight away. This could be something you can see out of the window. For example, you could say, "Look! A cat". Make yourself sound as surprised and interested as you can.

Wait for it to stop - Losing your temper or shouting back won't end the tantrum. Ignore the looks you get from people around you and concentrate on staying calm.

Don't change your mind - Giving in won't help in the long term. If you've said no, don't change your mind and say yes just to end the tantrum.

Otherwise, your child will start to think tantrums can get them what they want. For the same reason, it doesn't help to bribe them with sweets or treats.

If you're at home, try going into another room for a while. Make sure your child can't hurt themselves first.

Be prepared when you're out shopping - Tantrums often happen in shops. This can be embarrassing, and embarrassment makes it harder to stay calm. Keep shopping trips as short as possible. Involve your child in the shopping by talking about what you need and letting them help you.

Extra help with difficult behaviour?

Do not feel you have to cope alone. If you're struggling with your child's behaviour:

Talk to your health visitor, or to the teachers at your school – they will be happy to support you and suggest some new strategies to try. Visit the Family Lives website for [parenting advice and support](#), or phone their free parents' helpline on 0808 800 2222

Download the [NSPCC's guide to positive parenting](#) Read [coping with your teenager](#).

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

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



caterlink feeding the imagination						
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

14 th - 18 th March	Science Week
18 th March	Red Nose Day (donate to wear red or something funny – ‘Funny is Power!’) Olympic Hockey winner Leah Wilkinson in for assembly
21 st March	World Poetry Day
22 nd March	Parents evening 3.30pm – 7pm
23 rd March	Reading Meeting for Parents 1.30 – 2.30 Parents evening 3.30pm – 7pm
25 th March	Year 3/4 New Age Kurling event Rose class assembly
28 th March	Easter Pause Day ASD Awareness Week
29 th March	Year 5 Easter Performance to parents (1) 2pm-3pm
30 th March	Easter Egg Hunt
31 st March	Nursery end of term Whole School Spring Festival and Easter Bunny visit Year 5 Easter Performance to parents (2) 6pm-7pm
1 st April	End of Spring 2 term – Finish at 1.30pm
4 th – 18 th April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 19 th April	First day of Summer 1 term
20 th and 21 st April	Class Photos – please not the date change
27 th April	Junior Maths Challenge Year 5 and Year 6
29 th April	Year 3 and Year 4 Sleepover
2 nd May	Early May Bank Holiday
Thursday 5 th May	Polling Day – YEAR 6 IN SCHOOL ONLY
6 th May	Spelling Bee Final
9 th – 11 th May	SATS Week + Year 5 Residential
23 rd - 27 th May	Year 6 Residential
27 th May	Last day of term

30th May – 3rd June	Half term
6th June	INSET DAY
7th June	First day of Summer 2 term
5th July	Year 34 Fairfield's Hall Ukelele 12 – 7pm
19th July	Nursery end of term
20st July	End of Summer 2 term
21st July	INSET Day