



# DPS News

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20<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

"Singing is just a feeling set to music" Carrie Underwood

Dear Parents

We reach the end of another week where our DPS children have once again amazed us with their enthusiasm and their conduct, both in their in-school learning and way beyond.

At the beginning of the week, Mrs Cucharo, Mrs Wyman, Mr Dennis and I were lucky enough to accompany the junior choir to the Young Voices event at the O2 Arena. The event consists of a massed choir of over 9,200 school children along with amazing special guests, this year including Heather Small of M People fame. Despite the size of the crowd, our children stood out from it by listening carefully to what they were asked to do and giving it their absolute all, as well as showing respect and enthusiasm for other performers during the show. Being surrounded by some choirs whose audience etiquette was questionable really brought home how awesome our children are – well done to all of them.

We also received some amazing feedback when our Year 1 children were out and about on Wednesday and Thursday, visiting the Sea Life Centre in London. Some members of the public commented about how beautifully behaved the children were on the train and they were amazed by the depth of their conversation. In the Sea Life Centre itself, we saw some amazing examples of children being thoughtful and caring to others, stepping back for younger visitors and conducting themselves beautifully. Well done Year 1.

I know many of you will be aware that the Teachers Union, the NEU, have voted to take strike action, with the first day of action being Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February. We do expect to have to close some of our classes on this day as we have several NEU members who will be striking. You will receive a separate Classlist message with more details about this.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful weekend, and a very happy Lunar New Year to our families celebrating over the coming days.

恭喜发财

Kind regards

Cathy Bell  
Headteacher

Upcoming events this term which parents/carers may like to attend at school or be aware of

(See calendar at the end of the newsletter for full list of upcoming school events)

<b>24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Amethyst Class to Wimbledon Synagogue
<b>26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court Palace
<b>27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Holi Assembly KS1 9.30 and KS2 10.15
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	Red class assembly 9-9.30am
<b>9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Last day of Spring 1 before half term break – FODS mufti day</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>



# Sport

## New Age Kurling Competition

A team of Year 4 children represented Dorchester today in a Borough New Age Kurling competition. NAK is an adapted version of the kurling you may have seen in the Winter Olympics and is played in a sports hall with specially designed 'stones' on wheels rather than on ice.

This was our first experience and the team quickly got used to the technique and the weight they needed to use on their turns to land their stones in the middle of the rink and score the maximum 50 points available.

The team finished in second place in the group stages winning one game and losing another. Then played two more games which meant in the end finishing just outside the medals in a very proud 4th place.

The team were a real credit to themselves and the school - it was a pleasure to have them as our representatives.

Well done to Leo, Conor, Sienna and Laila!



## Girl's Football v Hackbridge Primary

Congratulations to the girls' football team for winning their cup match this week on penalties, a very exciting match against Hackbridge Primary School.



# Class Notes

## **How can Police Officers and Firefighters help people?**

This week in Nursery we have continued to think about 'real life superheroes.' We have been finding out about lots of different ways that Police Officers and Firefighters can help people. The children have enjoyed role playing different jobs that these people do. We have talked about fire safety and the children really enjoyed spraying water onto pretend flames; it was harder than they taught to control the spray bottles and this helped to develop their finger muscles. We have also been experimenting with purposeful mark making to see how we can record what we need to remember. The children have also enjoyed taking their fingerprints and practising how to write their names so that they know who they belong to. For our maths learning we have been developing our subitising skills.

## **Can you remember what happened in our story, The Old Toy Room?**

This week we have been reading a new story, The Old Toy Room. The children have been finding and using lots of new vocabulary and have practised using it in their writing. We have also looked at the characters' feelings and used emotive vocabulary to describe them. In Maths, we have been applying our multiplication facts into division problems, to help the children understand the relationship between the two. In History, we explored the materials of different toys, comparing past to present. In Science, we investigated micro-habitats, and the children could tell us lots about minibeasts and why they live where they live. In DT, we tested the strength of structures with different shapes. The children had to create their own cylindrical shape and explored how much weight it could hold. In RE, we looked at how Humanists might help their community, and in PSHE we talked about how we can show that we are respecting each other's rights.

## **Who is your role model and why?**

This week, Year 4 have been retelling the story of day and night from our book Sulwe. We have focussed on using fronted adverbials, conjunctions and expanded noun phrases in our writing to make it exciting to read. Year 3 have been writing descriptions based on the story Adventures of Tadeo Jones and have been using exciting adjectives. In Maths, Year 4 have been learning to multiply and divide by 10 and 100 and have been using this information to find related multiplication and division facts. Year 3 have been learning how to measure using a ruler and how to compare and order lengths. In RE, we have all been learning about role models and what this means. We have thought carefully about our role models and why they are inspirational. During our Science lessons, we have been learning about the human body and the names of the major bones in our bodies.



# Class Notes

## **What persuasive features did you include in your letter this week?**

This week in Year 5, we have started a new multiplication and division unit Mathematics, and so on that note, please do test and hammer in the times tables with your children as much as possible if they do not yet know them off by heart as it will help hugely over the next few weeks. In English, the children wrote some wonderfully persuasive letters focussing on emotive and persuasive language, we are looking forward to reading them all. In RE, we studied the story of The Good Samaritan and learned about the importance of helping others if we are able to. In Science, we discussed the theory around friction and how as a force it can be created and how it differs from surface to surface. Indigo class have had their second week of swimming and the rest of year 5 are carrying on with real PE sessions. Please practise your spellings and times tables everyone, and do please have a go at the dip and do homework activities – they are tremendous fun!

## **What is the difference between the angle of reflection and the angle of incidence?**

In Science this week, Year 6 have been investigating a challenging question - which is the question above! They had to use protractors to measure the angles made by the torch and a straight line, once they had understood the difference between the two angles! They persevered and revised Maths skills too. In RE, the children have been finding out about different Jewish texts their names, origins and purpose. This will be very helpful when each class visit a local synagogue over this term, as they will be able to have a better understanding of the sacred texts that they see there. Our learning about Percentages in Maths, comes to an end this week and the children have worked hard to apply their understanding to a range of problems. In English, we are finishing off and editing a recount of the beginning of the World War Two story, 'Rose Blanche' and the children have really excelled themselves in striving to write at a high standard. They are also editing their work carefully, to ensure it is the best they can do, and that it truly showcases all they know about writing.



# FODS

## New FODS Members Still Needed!



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FODS is still in need of new Committee Members to ensure the smooth running of future events. Crucially, we need a new **Treasurer** and also people to help with events. Please get in touch by emailing [dorchesterpta@gmail.com](mailto:dorchesterpta@gmail.com). Particularly, we are interested to hear if your employer may be involved with the '**pound for pound**' charity scheme whereby employers match the funding an employee may raise in voluntary charity fundraising. Many thanks and we look forward to hearing from you.

## FODS's Fundraising Aim for this Year



The school would like to purchase a 'scrap store playpod' for the children to use at playtime. FODS are excited to use the contributions we have received to make this happen. We believe the playpod is an excellent idea that will be of benefit to all ages of children on a daily basis. Mrs Bell has witnessed the many benefits of the playpod first hand after it was successfully implemented at her previous school.

The 'scrap store playpod' is where children can use safe by-products of industry - such as car tyres, parts of a chair, rope, netting, cloth etc. New things are available each year for use at playtime for various activities and games. Primary school children spend around 20% of their school day at play which amounts to around 600 playtimes, but often only ball games and limited static play equipment is available. It is important for the children's wellbeing that they have multiple play opportunities to ensure inclusion, positive activity and better concentration in the classroom. The scheme is also environmentally friendly as all the material for the playpod would otherwise go to scrap. The benefits of the playpod include:

- Improvements in behaviour and a reduction of incidents and accidents
- Integrated play across age ranges, abilities and genders
- Utilisation of the resources for positive classroom learning
- Children's perceptions of the school day improve
- More confident and motivated staff



# FODS



Please see the link: <https://youtu.be/zoIpA3JYoDc> to see a 2 minute video about the playpod. We need to raise **£13,000** in total which is needed to fund **the scrap store material, a new shed to store the material and a portion of the staff training involved**. We will be updating you as to how much we have already raised towards the scrap store playpod so far, and how much further we need go to reach our target. We are grateful for your continued support in our activities this year to help raise money for children and make the playpod dream a reality!

## New Events for this Term

Please see an outline of some of the events below that we have started to plan at our meeting this month. Further details of each event will be announced nearer to the time of that event.



- **Cake & toy sales** – we will be organising fortnightly class cake sales where parents can bake or donate cakes, cookies or biscuits etc. to sell alongside toys we already have in storage. We will be seeking parent and carer volunteers to run the class stalls.



- **9<sup>th</sup> February FODS Mufti Day**. Children can come to school wearing non-uniform in exchange for a small gift that is suitable for a father or male carer to receive, for example, socks, shower gel, mug, photo frame, coffee or chocolate (suggested gift amount around £3). The gift will be used to stock our Father's Day Shop which will be set up in the summer (please make sure any food items are storable and have a long sell by date!).





# FODS



**Valentines' Day Competition** – children can design a card, picture, or write a poem about someone/thing they love or a hobby. This could be a family member, friend or a pet or a hobby they enjoy. They could even write about the school to gain some teacher brownie points! The competition is sponsored by **Lower Morden Equestrian Centre who have kindly donated two prizes:** a pony walkout and an own a pony day. Entry will be £2 and the competition will be over the February half term. More details will be provided in the first February newsletter of the month.



**Mother's Day Craft** – we will enable the children to complete a craft during school to give to their mother or female carer.



**Easter Egg Hunt** – we will create an Easter egg hunt for the children to participate in during school.



**School Recipe Book** – we aim to release a recipe book this year, containing contributions from the children which parents and carers can buy to raise money for FODS.



# Safeguarding

## Seeking support for you and your children regarding mental health

### **Quick tips for accessing help**

Speaking to professionals can sometimes feel daunting, and it might feel difficult to find the right words to explain what's going on or what help you think your child needs. Parents in similar situations have found that the tips below can help.

#### **1. Make a note of your concerns**

Before speaking to a professional, make a note of your concerns and the times you have noticed particularly worrying behaviours or feelings. You can do this really simply by making a list on your phone. You can then take this with you to appointments to give the professional a clear sense of your child's situation, and to support any requests for referrals.

#### **2. Explore local services**

If you're on a waiting list for help, explore whether there are services available locally that you might be able to access in the meantime. Your child might also be able to get more immediate online support from organisations like [The Mix](#) and [Kooth](#). You can find other online services here at [Young Minds](#)

#### **3. Try talking to other parents**

As you find your way around local services, try talking to other parents who have been through this, or speak to any friends or family who might be able to advise you about where to get started. For example, if you know anyone who works in mental health support, they might have a good idea about what's available locally.

#### **4. Follow up after the appointment**

Where possible, follow up by email after appointments – for example with teachers or other staff at your child's school – to confirm what's been agreed. Then check in a week or two later to find out what's happened. This is a good way to keep things moving.

### **Speaking to your GP**

GP stands for 'general practitioner'. This is the doctor who provides overall care to look after both your child's physical and mental health. You can speak to your registered GP, or another GP at your local surgery, by calling your doctor's surgery to book an appointment.

Your GP can help with things like:

- speaking to your child to find out how they're doing and what's going on for them
- discussing your concerns with you and providing advice
- suggesting different types of support or treatment, such as counselling and therapy or medication (treatment options will depend on your child's age and what they're experiencing)
- letting you know what support is available locally and making referrals. This may include CAMHS or other mental health support services
- offering your child regular check-ups to see how they're doing
- finding local support groups for your child

### **Are you worried about the welfare of a child or young person?**

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/spotting-signs-child-abuse/>

If you think a child could be at risk of significant harm, you can call the children's social care team at the council in Sutton ([Go to their website](#))

[020 8770 6001](#) (Monday to Friday, 9am and 5pm) [020 8770 5000](#) (out of hours)

**Always call 999 in an emergency**





# 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](http://www.classlist.com)

Payment link for school dinners and class trips

[www.pay360educationpayments.com/Home](http://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>

Our overall value for the school is  
Self-belief

**SELF-BELIEF  
AND HARD WORK  
WILL ALWAYS  
EARN YOU  
SUCCESS**

**\*Please note- no GAMMON or BEEF on Wednesday it will always be CHICKEN**

SUTTON WINTER 2022/SPRING 2023 MENU					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>WEEK ONE</b> 31 Oct 21 Nov 12 Dec 16 Jan 6 Feb 6 March 27 March	Option 1 Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Beef Lasagne* with Garlic Bread	Roast Gammon* with Roast New Potatoes & Gravy	BBQ or Lemon & Herb Chicken* with Potato Wedges	MSC Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option 2 Veggie Chilli with Rice	Mexican Bean Roll with Rice	Crunchy Top Veg Bake with Roast New Potatoes	Rice BBQ or Lemon & Herb Quorn Fillets with Potato Wedges or Rice	Cheese Quiche with Chips
	Vegetables Carrots Green Beans	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Carrot & Swede Mash Cabbage	Sweetcorn Roasted Tomatoes	Garden Peas Baked Beans
	Dessert Pear & Chocolate Crumble with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Raspberry Jelly with Peaches Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Vanilla Shortbread with Yoghurt Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt & Raisin Cake Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Banana Sponge with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit
<b>WEEK TWO</b> 7 Nov 28 Nov 2 Jan 23 Jan 20 Feb 13 March	Option 1 Macaroni Cheese	Spaghetti Bolognese* with Garlic Bread	Roast Beef* with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken* Tikka Masala Curry with Rice	Pork Sausages* with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option 2 Shepherdess Pie with Gravy	Lentil & Basil Whirl with New Potatoes	Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheese with Roast Potatoes	Vegetable Fajitas with Rice	Veggie Sausages with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables Green Beans Roasted Vegetables	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Carrots Roasted Butternut Squash	Cauliflower Green Beans	Garden Peas Baked Beans
	Dessert Fresh Fruit Salad Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Peach Upside Down Cake with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Oaty Cookie with Yoghurt Fruit & Yoghurt Station	Marble Cake with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Fruit with Ice Cream Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit
<b>WEEK THREE</b> 14 Nov 5 Dec 9 Jan 30 Jan 27 Feb 20 March	Option 1 Cheese Swirls with New Potatoes	Beef Burger* in a Bun with Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken* with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Sticky Chicken* Noodles or Rice	MSC Fish Fingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option 2 Tomato Pasta	Quorn Burger in a Bun with Potato Wedges	Vegetarian Wellington with Roast Potatoes	Veggie Wrap Stack with Rice	Cheese Omelette with Chips
	Vegetables Green Beans Carrots	Roasted Peppers Sweetcorn	Carrots Roasted Parsnips	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Garden Peas Baked Beans
	Dessert Rice Pudding with Berries Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit Salad Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Orange Jelly with Mandarins Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Peach Crumble with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Chocolate & Apple Cake with Chocolate Sauce Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit

- 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

<b>24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Amethyst Class to Wimbledon Synagogue
<b>26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court Palace
<b>27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Holi Assembly KS1 9.30 and KS2 10.15
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	Red class assembly 9-9.30am
<b>9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Last day of Spring 1 before half term break – FODS mufti day</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM 2</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 3 4 Egyptian virtual visit
<b>28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Lavendar Class to Wimbledon Synagogue
<b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	SEND Coffee Afternoon 1pm
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	World Book Day dress up
<b>14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Purple Class to Wimbledon Synagogue
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Parent Consultations
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Last day of term for Nursery</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>LAST DAY OF SPRING 2 Term</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April – 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>First day of Summer 1 Term</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Last day of Summer 1 before Half term</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>INSET Day</b>
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>First day of Summer 2 term</b>
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Last day of term for Nursery</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Last day of term</b>
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>INSET Day</b>



The Willow Club our Wrap Around Care Provision, which includes Breakfast Club, Morning Club, After School Club and Holiday Club.

Places are available for after school club for the remainder of this term. Just visit The Willow Club Wrap Around Care page on the school website

(<https://www.dorchesterprimary.com/page/?title=The+Willow+Club+Wrap%2Daround+Care&pid=64&action=saved>) to book.

The contact number for the club is 07597-382949.

***Please note that bookings need to be made and paid for in advance of your child attending the sessions.***

We have had several children attending the club without bookings which means we may have insufficient food, staff or resources for them. Thank you for your understanding.