



DPS News

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'You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me'. - C.S. Lewis

3rd February, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! You, and the children, have truly surpassed yourselves for World Book Day 2023. The children look fabulous in their amazing costumes and have had a wonderful day talking about and sharing books with their teachers and friends.

Reading is central to all that we teach in school. We know that reading ignites creativity, sparks curiosity and stimulates the imagination in children. It is also the window to the rest of the curriculum – a child who is a fluent reader can access a wealth of information across every other subject they study.

The Department for Education have produced some top tips to help parents to support their children with reading at home (at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read>)

It suggests the following:

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

6. Make use of your local library

Visit libraries so that you can explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow. See [Libraries Connected](#) for more digital library services and resources.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

8. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.

We know that parents who have a positive attitude towards reading pass that on to their children; perhaps you can make some time this weekend, if you don't ordinarily do so, to visit your local library – it would be wonderful if every child at our school was a library member – it is free of charge and children can borrow up to 10 books on a three week loan. You can find your local library by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/local-library-services>

Have a great weekend.

Upcoming events parents and/or carers may wish to attend or be aware of

16 th March	Girls football vs Benhilton 3-4.45pm @ Nescot College
17 th March	Red Nose Day – Wear something Red and bring a donation 😊 Year 3 / 4 Tag Rugby Festival 10am-12 @ John Fisher
20 th March	Year 5 /6 Basketball @Carshalton Boys 3-5.30pm
21 st March	Netball A and B vs Holy Trinity 3-4.30 @ Dorchester Primary
22 nd – 23 rd March	--- Parent Consultations over two evenings ---
22 nd March	Year 3 Cross Country @ Beddington Cricket Club 9am-12
27 th March	Year 3 / 4 Racketpack Festival 4-5.30pm @ Nonsuch High
28 th March	Gym and Dance Festival @ Sutton High 1pm-3.30pm
30 th March	Last day of term for Nursery & Year 4 Spring Performance @ 6.30pm



Class Notes

What did you learn about chickens and their eggs?

This week in Nursery, we have been thinking about food and where it comes from. The children all knew that they had food that they could get from their houses or the shops, but they were not confident to talk about how the shops got the food. The highlight of the week was when we went to visit Riad and the chickens in Forest School. We found out all about the chickens and how to look after them and we were delighted to find some eggs in the chicken coup. Over the next couple of weeks we are going to be finding out about where other foods come from and tasting a variety of foods. We are also going to cook using some delicious recipes as we think about how food is prepared. For our Creative learning we looked at the artist Arcimboldo and how he used food to create pictures. The children have been experimenting using role play food to create their own pieces of art and these have been fantastic!

How many different ways can you make 10 using two numbers?

This week we have been looking at what happens when we go on a journey. Who drives the bus? Who flies the plane? Why do our adults use cards and phones to swipe the yellow circle on a bus? Would you take the S3 to go to Australia? Why not?

So many questions and so much discussion. In Maths, the children have been learning about Number Bonds of 10. Maybe ask your child to sing this 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 ten'**. The children went on a walk around the school at the beginning of the week, to collect natural resources. We used these to make landscape collages.

What did the first castles look like?

This week in English we have been retelling the story of 'The Deep Dark Woods'. The children wrote some great stories and used adjectives to add detail to their writing. In Maths, we have been subtracting using numbers and counting back to help us.

In Science the children enjoyed investigating which materials would be best for fixing a torn umbrella and in Art they shaped paper to make a 3D drawing. In History, we learnt about what the first motte and bailey castles were like and the children worked hard to create replicas of them. In RE we learnt about how the Jewish festival of Sukkot is celebrated.

What is inside a seed?

This week, we have explored what a balanced argument is and thought about why the wok could be seen as a good or bad character in our story, The Runaway Wok. This is to prepare them for their star writes which they will be completing next week.

In Maths, we have started our measurement unit. We have looked at measuring objects in grams and kilograms, as well as comparing mass using the words "heavier" and "lighter". The children have explored the idea that size does not mean that something is necessarily heavier.

In Geography and Computing, the children were really excited to research our new topic 'From Dragons to Dim Sum', which is all about China. The children found lots of interesting facts, which they will be creating a presentation about this half-term. In Science, the children dissected kidney beans to see what was inside of a seed. In PSHE, we spoke about the importance of respecting each other's boundaries and privacy.



Class Notes

What light sources can you find in your home?

This week, we have been learning about suffering in RE and have thought about how Christians support each other and have their faith to help them in times of crisis. We have learnt about light and shadow in Science and have explored what a light source is. Did you know that the moon is not a light source? We looked at the different types of man-made and natural light sources that we could find in our environment. In Computing, we have started planning our instructional videos which we will be filming soon! For Maths, we have moved onto our new unit of fractions and have been learning what a mixed number is and what this means. In English, we have focused on grammar and punctuation this week. We have learnt all about how to use punctuation correctly, including apostrophes and inverted commas.

How do you find decimal and fraction equivalents?

This week in Year 5, we started a new topic in Geography all about the great rivers of the world, focussing on comparison of different rivers, and the human and physical features associated with rivers and how they are formed and used. This is also feeding into our English work where we were planning and writing non chronological reports about great rivers of the world. In Maths, we have been looking at decimal and fractions equivalents, and how to convert to and from both of these. Tip! Try to learn some decimal and fraction equivalents like you learn your times tables, then they will be at the tip of your tongue! In Science, we have been continuing our study of different forces and how they act on different objects.

How do you think Macbeth will be found out?

In English, Year 6 have been discovering part of the famous play by William Shakespeare - 'Macbeth'. We have been reading a simplified version of the first part and the children will be writing a newspaper report about the death of King Duncan. They have been planning what those interviewed might have said and speculating on the ending. In Maths, we have been recapping knowledge about area and perimeter and using that to solve problems. Earlier this week, Lavender Class enjoyed an excellent trip to Wimbledon Synagogue and were fascinated to see some of the artefacts they have learnt about in RE, for real. (Amethyst Class have already been, and Purple Class will be going soon). Our new Geography topic is about Global Trade and the children have been finding out how it became global and why so much of our food here in the UK is imported. In Science, we have been planning an experiment to find out how to change the brightness of a bulb in an electric circuit. The children will be carrying out the practical side of this next week. This week, the children have found out about their high schools, and we would like to commend them all, for being very sensible.



FODS

Next FODS Committee Meeting



Our next committee meeting is **7pm on Monday 6th March** in the school music room. Please come along to give your ideas and thoughts about past and new events. Particularly, we are interested to hear from you if you are able to join our committee, as our **Treasurer**.

Leavers' Hoodies



Please note that you need to sign and return the form regarding year 6 leavers hoodies by **10th March**. If your child would like a hoodie, but your current financial circumstances make this difficult, please contact Mrs Bell in confidence as FODS may be able to provide sponsorship in such situations.



Safeguarding

Supporting Children's Safety

Looking after a child or young person's mental health

As parents and carers, there are ways we can support our children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy.

Encouraging and guiding a child to think about their own mental health and wellbeing are vital skills you can teach them from a young age.

Find out how you can help a child to have good mental health, including knowing how to talk to a child about their mental health, and when to spot signs they might be struggling.

Plus get self-care tips for you, to help you look after your mental health while caring for others, and find out how to get more support if you, your child or your family need it.

Signs a child might be struggling

A large number of children and young people will experience behavioural or emotional problems at some stage. For some, these will resolve with time, while others will need professional support.

It might be difficult to know if there is something upsetting your child, but there are ways to spot when something's wrong. Look out for:

- significant changes in behaviour
- ongoing difficulty sleeping
- withdrawing from social situations
- not wanting to do things they usually like
- self-harm or neglecting themselves

When to get professional help for a child or young person

You know your child better than anyone, so if you're worried, first think if there has been a significant change in their behaviour.

If there has, is it caused by any specific events or changes in their life? Does it only happen at home, school or college, or when they're with others or alone?

If you're worried or unsure, there is lots of support out there (see the support section on this page). MindEd for Families also has information explaining some common behavioural problems in different age groups.

MindEd: Should I be concerned or worried?

Young Minds advice for parents

Young Minds Parents Helpline.

Are you worried about a child?

<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

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>

Our overall value for the school this half term is

Perseverance



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

SUTTON WINTER 2022/SPRING 2023 MENU					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK ONE 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
WEEK TWO 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
WEEK THREE 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

* HALAL OPTION AVAILABLE

- 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.

DPS Diary

14th March	Purple Class to Wimbledon Synagogue FODS Mother's Day Crafts
15th March	FODS Mother's Day Crafts Indigo Easter Experience
16th March	Blue and Sapphire Indigo Experience Girls football vs Benhilton
17th March	Red Nose Day – Wear something Red and bring a donation 😊 Year 3 / 4 Tag Rugby Festival
20th March	Year 5 /6 Basketball @Carshalton Boys 3-5.30pm
21st March	Netball A and B vs Holy Trinity
22nd – 23rd March	Parent Consultations
22nd March	Year 3 Cross Country @ Beddington Cricket Club
27th March	Year 3 / 4 Racketpack Festival
28th March	Gym and Dance Festival @ Sutton High
30th March	Last day of term for Nursery Year 4 Spring Performance 6.30pm
31st March	LAST DAY OF SPRING 2 Term
3rd April – 14th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
17th April	First day of Summer 1 Term
26th May	Last day of Summer 1 before Half term
29th May – 2nd June	HALF TERM
Monday 5th June	INSET Day
Tuesday 6th June	First day of Summer 2 term
Wednesday 19th	Last day of term for Nursery
Thursday 20th	Last day of term
Friday 21st July	INSET Day



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.

HOLIDAY CLUB IN APRIL 2023

The holiday club will run each day from Monday 3rd April to Thursday 6th April inclusive.

There will be a range of outdoor and indoor play, spring craft activities and sports to keep the children entertained safely whilst you work or just enjoy some downtime.

The club runs from 8:30 - 5:00 and costs £30 for a full day and £15 for a half day (8:30 - 12:30 or 1:00 - 5:00)

<https://www.dorchesterprimary.com/club/?pid=64&catid=2>