



# DPS News

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"The direction you choose to face determines whether you're standing at the end or the beginning of a road."

Richelle E. Goodrich

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of another academic year is upon us – and what an amazing one it has been. Our children have once again surpassed our expectations in so many ways. We were absolutely delighted with our SATs scores, the standardised national assessments children sit at the end of year 6. Our children achieved above national averages at the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths, with 43% of our children achieving the Higher Standard in Reading and Spelling and Grammar (last year the national figure for this was 28%) and 37% achieving the Higher Standard in Maths (last year's national figure was 22%). These results become even more impressive when you take into account that we are a fully inclusive school with over a third of our Year 6 cohort having a recognised Special Educational Need.

Whilst, of course, our academic outcomes are important, it is our inclusivity that helps our children to become the wonderful young people that they are when they leave us. Our children learn to understand one another, support each others' needs and know that they are heading out into a world where things aren't equal for everyone – and importantly, they want to do something about it. Our Class of 2023 is full of truly remarkable young people who are absolutely ready to take their High Schools by storm – they showed this in spades at their Leavers' Assembly this morning. Keep being yourselves and keep living our school values – you have very bright futures ahead of you.

Parents across the school are always keen to know which High Schools our children head to. Once again this year, our children have had great success in applications to all schools, including those in the independent sector and those with selective entry. Our leavers' destinations this year are:

School	Number of Children
Carshalton Boys Sports College	3
Carshalton High School for Girls	2
Cheam High School	28
Epsom and Ewell High School	7
Glenthorne High School	17
Greenshaw High School	1
Nonsuch High School for Girls	3
Oaks Park High School	4
Overton Grange School	8

Raynes Park High School	1
St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls	1
Sutton Grammar School	3
Sutton High School for Girls (Independent)	1
The John Fisher School	1
The Tiffin Girls' School	3
Tiffin School	1
Wallington County Grammar School	1
Whitgift School (Independent)	2
Wilson's School	2
Woldingham School (Independent)	1

We will include some information about choosing and applying for High School places in the Parent Welcome Meetings early next term for parents with children moving into Year 5 and Year 6. Year 6 parents please note that the deadline for registering for the tests for Tiffin School and the Tiffin Girls' School for entry in September 2024 is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – families have missed this deadline in the past as it comes so quickly at the end of the summer holiday – so do bear this in mind if you want your child to sit the selective entry test for these schools.

Before I sign off for the summer, I want to express a huge amount of gratitude to everyone who has supported the school this year. Our Class Reps have done an amazing job, as have our FODS committee and everyone who has supported with organising events. Our Year 6 parents organised a simply brilliant Festival on the Field yesterday, and so much organisation has gone into events like Leavers' Year Books and Hoodies, Mothers' and Fathers' Day Shops and the Christmas and Summer Fairs. We are all excited about the future of FODS and look forward to many more successful events next year when everyone has had a few week's rest!

Of course it is not just the organisation of the events that makes them a success, so thank you to everyone who has donated a toy, bottle, sweetie jar, hamper item, attended an event, or bought a cake or an ice cream – it all makes a difference. We look forward to sharing the difference it will make to our children's playtimes with you next year.

We wish you a happy and restful summer break and look forward to welcoming our Willow Club children for lots of summer fun over the next couple of weeks.

With very best wishes.

Cathy Bell  
Headteacher

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PLEASE CLICK THIS LINK BELOW TO SEE THE DIARY DATES FOR NEXT YEAR ON OUR SCHOOL CALENDAR:

[DPS DIARY LINK](#)



# DPS Info



## SUMMER READING CLUB



See the events!



Join the Summer Reading Club and visit the summer programme of events  
[steamsahead.sutton.gov.uk](https://steamsahead.sutton.gov.uk)



Join the club!



Sutton Libraries have launched the **Summer Reading Club 2023: Sutton STEAMs Ahead**. In this annual challenge, we ask children to read six books over the summer holiday and readers will be issued with a STEAM reading passport, full of inspiration for their summer reads. There are also exciting prizes for schools and individuals up for grabs!



# Eco

## It's been an amazing year for Dorchester's Eco Team.

We formed our Dorchester Eco Council creating a team of dedicated, passionate and conscientious eco warriors who met regularly throughout the year to discuss actions to plan for and execute.

We had our Christmas jumper and World Book Day costume swap, where children championed reusing preloved pieces. Helping to reduce waste and encourage the concept of giving products a second life, exchanging out-grown or unused items and finding new ones to wear.

We ran the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel fortnight, where we encouraged each other to ditch the cars and travel to school by foot or on wheels. This was a great success and we have seen an increase in scooters and bikes in the bike shed. Congratulations to Indigo Class who made the most green journeys to school and won the Gold Trainer Award. Eco Council continued with the eco brick scheme. An ongoing project which will result in building a tree planter and a friendship bench for the playground, in the next academic year.

We have carried on planning future projects which includes expanding our recycling within school. Our fundraising clothing collection, not only stopped lots of clothes from heading to landfill, but helped to generate extra funds for the school.

We introduced Eco Club this year for the first time. It proved to be a great success and we have enjoyed gathering together each week to learn more about our world and how we can help to try and tackle climate change.

We completed a litter pick in our local area, created bug hotels, made wildflower seed bombs and we even made a biodegrade wreath for Remembrance Sunday. We learnt about our local biodiversity, carbon footprints and endangered species we introduced the pen recycling and monitored our paper recycling.

Riad has work tirelessly expanding Forest School and ensuring that all our children get to benefit from weekly Forest School lessons, using our outdoor classroom to explore and connect with nature. Taking care of our school chickens and of course the school tortoise Tilly.

There are lots more actions going forward into the next school year. Watch this space...Thank you to all the children who took part.

Mrs Thackwell Eco Lead

**Spent 15 minutes in a sunny spot** Use this chart to note how many of each species you see

Submit your sightings at [www.bigbutterflycount.org](http://www.bigbutterflycount.org) Or download our free app by scanning the QR code!

DFN

## Help us take nature's pulse by joining the Big Butterfly Count.

The Big Butterfly Count is a UK-wide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies (and some day-flying moths) we see.



## SUTTON ECOLOGY CENTRE SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

**POND DAY** 24 & 25 JULY  
Can you find the minibeasts lurking in the depths of our ponds? Includes pond dipping, games and a craft. Suggested suitability: 5-11yrs

**FLOWER FAIRIES** 31 JULY & 1 AUGUST  
Find Cicely Mary Barker's enchanting 'Flower Fairies' illustrations and poems as you discover the flowers and trees they belong to. Suggested Suitability: 3yrs+

**BEETLES, BUGS AND BUTTERFLIES** 21 & 22 AUGUST  
What are they? Where are they? And what do they eat? Hunt for them in the meadow and make a minibeast to take home. Suggested suitability: 5-11yrs

All activities are outdoors. You must accompany your child. See Eventbrite for costs. Booking essential [suttonbiodiversity.eventbrite.com](http://suttonbiodiversity.eventbrite.com) For info email [biodiversit@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:biodiversit@sutton.gov.uk)

Sutton



# Sport

## 2022/23 – Sports Review

### Team Dorchester have had a busy and successful year of sport!

Just under 140 children have represented Dorchester in fixtures or at events including football, netball, gymnastics, cricket, cheerleading, Tchoukball, Ultimate Frisbee, athletics, badminton, basketball, new age curling, tag rugby, swimming, cross country and skipping.

As usual we entered the boys' and girls' football leagues, with both also playing in the Borough Cup competitions. We had some great results across the teams but our Girls and Year 5 Boys also had impressive Cup runs, both making it through to the semi-final which is a great achievement and we hope to go one better next season! We also had our first Mixed Football fixtures, made more valuable as the concept was the brainchild of some of our Year 6 children who then organised the team themselves. This is something that we will definitely carry forward into future years so those proactive footballers will have left a legacy at Dorchester.

The netball season was also a full programme; the A Team entered the Borough League, staying undefeated until after Christmas, and our mixed B Team who played friendlies alongside those matches were undefeated throughout the entire season. In addition, we fielded a C Team on two occasions, which reflects the large number of children out each week on court. We also had a trip down to Surrey Storm to get inspired, which I think certainly worked, and we'll be looking to do again next year.

Our fabulous Netball A team became Borough Champions at the annual Rally, a gold rush in cricket led to well-deserved winners' medals for our Year 5 and Year 6 cricket teams and a fantastic basketball bronze medal for the Year 5/6 team showed the consistency of our emerging basketball squads. Individual successes on the track and in the pool saw more additions to the overall medal haul for the year; Aiya won the Year 3 girls' 100m at the Borough Athletics and Lorenzo touched first in the Year 5 boys' breaststroke at the Borough Gala, with medals also that night for Juhon, Elenia and Lila. Our amazing Gymnastics Squad also wowed the audience with their polished and professional performance at the Borough Gym and Dance Festival, Dorchester's first appearance at this event for some time.

But Team Dorchester don't just put energy and effort into competing in extra-curricular events, they have also had a varied year with curriculum sport. Year 5 and 6 were treated to some excellent workshops delivered by Urban Strides who honed their street dance techniques. Year 6 also took part in the Schools Mini-Marathon, all setting their own personal challenges aiming to run 2km in their best time. During the year, three excellent Personal Best Weeks have also seen our four Houses go head-to-head in inter-house basketball, benchball, football, rounders and scatterball across the year groups.

This term has concluded with the final intra-school competitions of the year in the form of Sports Days with Reception taking part in a carousel of races and activities and KS2 competing in more traditional track and field events running, jumping and throwing their way to earning points for their Houses.

An important mention and thank you must also go to this year's terrific Year 6 Junior Supremo Sports Leaders. They have been simply excellent in their support and running of intra-school events. They have contributed massively to their success and it has been a pleasure to have them as part of the PE team this year.

We have had a full and exciting year and it is lovely to be able to reflect on all the achievements of our children, large and small, and to enjoy a moment to be extremely proud of all they have worked for and earned. We've enjoyed every moment!



# Sport





# Class Notes

*From all of our staff here at Dorchester, we would like to wish everyone a safe, enjoyable and restful Summer. Best of luck to our Year 6 leavers, and we cannot wait to greet you all in your new classes in September!*



**SUMMER  
READING  
CHALLENGE**





# Safeguarding

Staying Safe this Summer

**5** Ways to Keep Your Kids Safe This **SUMMER**

- 1 Water safety**  
Maintain constant eye contact on kids in or around water, without distraction.
- 2 Child safety helmet**  
Make sure your kids wear a properly fitted bike or multi-sport helmet every time they ride.
- 3 Hydration**  
Encourage children to stay well-hydrated by drinking plenty of water before, during and after play.
- 4 Playground safety**  
Visit parks with impact-absorbing material under equipment, and actively supervise them while they play.
- 5 Hot cars**  
Never leave your child alone in a car, not even for a minute.

**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](tel:02087706001) (Monday to Friday, 9am and 5pm) [020 8770 5000](tel:02087705000) (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 values for the school this half term are **creativity** and **togetherness**:

**Coming together  
is a beginning;  
keeping together  
is progress;  
working together  
is success**

HENRY FORD

## Welcome to Olive Dining

We are delighted to take this opportunity to introduce you to Olive Dining- your school's catering provider.

Here at Olive we pride ourselves on the food we produce and the ingredients that we use. We ensure that we use locally sourced produce to support the local community and manage road miles to support the environment.

We have a fantastic choice of menus which are ran in 3-weekly cycles. Each of our menus have been especially created with your child's school in mind and offer exciting and varied hot dishes, packed full of flavour and nutrition.

We also offer a cold deli with delicious salads. Our cold lunch offer includes a selection of sandwich or baguettes so parents can save time and money preparing school lunches.

We believe there are many benefits for children eating a school lunch. These range from ensuring children eat a balanced diet; avoid going hungry and losing concentration and offering opportunity to develop social skills and table manners as they get to sit down with other pupils at dining tables.



## Free Primary School Meals

### IMPORTANT NEWS!

DID YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD CAN ENJOY A FREE SCHOOL MEAL IN KEY STAGE 1 (RECEPTION, YEAR 1 & 2)

YOUR CHILD MAY ALSO BE ENTITLED TO A FREE SCHOOL MEAL IN KEY STAGE 2 SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT!



Join our Olive Dining family and keep up to date with all our news and events!



## Our Sustainability

- We use local suppliers who use environmentally, sustainable sources.
- Our meat comes from Food Standard Assured Farms.
- Our fish comes from sustainable sources.
- We eat seasonal products requiring significantly less emissions.
- All our eggs are free-range.
- We use traditional china plates & bowl to avoid waste.



## Theme Days & Events

We have a range of theme days over the year for key events. Look out for your monthly theme day calendar so your children can enjoy these days and fun menus.





Willow Club our Wrap Around Care Provision, which includes Breakfast Club, Morning Club, After School Club and Holiday Club can be contacted in the following ways:

- 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 to book - <https://www.dorchesterprimary.com/page/?title=The+Willow+Club+Wrap%2Daround+Care&pid=64&action=saved>
- Bookings for **Summer Willow Club** holiday club sessions are available on the school website at
  - <https://www.dorchesterprimary.com/club/?pid=64&catid=2>

**The Summer holiday club** will run each day from Monday 24th July until to Friday 4th August inclusive. There will be a range of outdoor and indoor play, 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)  
We look forward to welcoming your child/ren to the club.

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.