



DPS News

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10th September, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a wonderful first full week back at school. It has been lovely to welcome new children and families into our Nursery and Reception classes, and to see the Reception and Year 1 children enjoying the refurbished outdoor space. Many classes have had their first experience of Forest Schools – and they are very excited about being able to tell the age of a tree by measuring the girth of the trunk – we were amused by a child who got home and wrapped a piece of string around mum’s waist to find out her age! The junior children have also enjoyed their introduction to Spanish in their Modern Foreign Languages lessons. Everyone is enjoying the opportunity to have more reading sessions in school – just as we hope you are enjoying reading with your children at home. The reading diaries already seem to be well used and lots of reading stickers have already been given out.

Welcome to Dorchester Primary: It has been lovely to welcome our Nursery and Reception children to school this week. We have also welcomed Adnan and Nela into Year 2 and Salmana and Nirshana into Year 3/4. We are delighted to have you all with us and look forward to sharing lots of exciting times ahead.

Voluntary Roles at School: Following my note in last weeks newsletter we managed a grand total of just 5 volunteers from our several hundred families! Please do read the information below and let us know if you can help – we will be very grateful. We are looking for volunteers for:

Reading – we are putting a great focus on reading this year and want to make as many opportunities for children to read with adults as we can; unfortunately some of our children do not benefit from having adults hear them read each day at home, so for these, and indeed for all our children, having additional adults to hear readers in school will be a real bonus. If you are able to spare some time for this we will offer training to make sure your time is spent as effectively as possible.

Class Representatives – we are also looking for a Class Rep from each class to support us in communicating effectively with parents and carers. This role involves attending Parent Council meetings and FODs meetings once each term and communicating with parents in your child’s class.

FODS (Friends of Dorchester School) – we are looking for as many parents as possible to get involved with FODS. At the moment a very small number of people do an awful lot of work to make sure funds are raised and events are organised. We know parents have brilliant ideas and we want to tap into as many of those as possible. So if you are a great organiser, or have creative ideas, or can spare half an hour every now and again to wrap gifts for the sweet tombola, we would love you to step up.

Sharing Expertise – Have you climbed Kilimanjaro? Do you work in an unusual or interesting field? Have you built your own home? Or achieved something brilliant on the sports field? If so we would love to hear from you. We are always on the lookout for people who can inspire our children to achieve great things – if you fit the bill, or know someone who does, please let us know.

If you can help with any of these roles please complete the form [here](#). We will be in touch soon.

Jeans for Genes Day



Next Friday, 17th September, we will be joining Jeans for Genes day to raise funds for those living with genetic disorders, including some members of our own school community. In return for a donation (there will be buckets at the gates) children may come to school wearing jeans or denim shorts/skirts in place of their school trousers/skirt. The rest of their uniform (polo shirts, jumpers etc) should be worn as normal. The children will learn about where their money goes and how it helps during assemblies next week. Thanks in advance for your support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Cathy Bell
Headteacher



DPS Notices

Come and Join us...

The 10th Mid-Surrey Boy's Brigade Company is currently recruiting.

We meet at Christ Church with St Philip, Ruskin Drive, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8LG on a Wednesday Evening.

Anchors meet between 6pm and 7.15pm
and
Juniors meet between 6.30pm and 8pm.

For more information contact:-
roy@thetenthBB.org or the Church Office
on 020 8337 7630.

JOIN THE ADVENTURE

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
- The Adventure Begins Here

ANCHORS
5 - 8 Years

JUNIORES
8 - 11 Years

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR LOCAL GROUP AT
BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK/JOIN



Class Notes

What have you enjoyed most about starting Nursery?

We have been very proud of our new **Nursery** children this week. They are all settling in really well and have been exploring our inside and outside learning environments. It has been lovely to welcome lots of new families to Dorchester, and we have also been pleased to welcome some familiar faces. We are so pleased that we have been able to open our large sandpit after it was closed for the whole of last year, due to Covid. We are really looking forward to next week when the children will stay for their full sessions.

How can you find out who has got the biggest head in your house?

This week we have been following the antics of Jim as he climbed the beanstalk and helped out a lonely Giant. We have been investigating how to measure things that are not straight, just as Jim did when he measured the Giant's head to help him get some glasses, new teeth and a wig! We even found a way to compare the size of our heads. We have also been exploring different ways to measure items in all the classrooms and our outside area and learning vocabulary such as; tall, tallest, height, wide and long. As this week is Sports week, we have been coming to school in our PE kits and practising the skills we will need for Sports Day - who knew that would include throwing a wellington boot across a playground? We have also been making medals to wear on Sports Day. On Wednesday everyone came dressed in their sparkliest outfits and there were lots of stars to be seen as the children thanked all their teachers for teaching them! The children wrote many messages of thanks to their teachers and gave them a lovely day. We were all Stars of the Day that day!

What are the differences between an evergreen and deciduous tree?

In Year 1 this week we have had booklet week and the children have enjoyed showing off their skills and what they can do. They have all tried really hard and persevered when they have found things a little tricky.

We have been developing our art skill this week and enjoyed exploring the trees and plants in our school environment. We have looked carefully at flowers and used water colours to paint them. We used the iPads to take photos of the trees around school and then recreated the pictures we took. We have also learnt about the different seasons and tried hard to paint a tree from each season.

What is Privacy?

Year 2 have had a fantastic first week back at school! We have been settling into our new routines and have begun learning about our new topic Maggots and Medicine. We are looking forward to learning more about Florence Nightingale, Edith Cavell and Mary Seacole.



Class Notes

What symbol should we look for to know the websites we are using are safe to use?

In Year 3 this week we have been continuing to learn to tell the time and use time to solve problems. In our topic of Saving Planet Earth, we thought about the importance of the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We challenged the children with thoughts about how we can practice these in school and at home. Be prepared for lots of questions and thoughts about how more can be done in these vital areas. In Science we are starting to think about pollution and how it affects the world around us. Watch this space for the results of these investigations! We have started to learn the days of the week in French and in Computing we have thought about being safe when we are online. The children had a chance to show off their skills by building their own E-Safety Internaut. We have completed some of our booklet work as part of the end of year assessments, which will help with reporting back to you as parents in the end of year reports, which are due soon. We finished our week off with Sports Day, where we had lots of fun and special awards were given for Courage, Honesty and Perseverance.

What land would you like to visit most from 'The Boy and the Rainbow'?

This week in Year 5, we have been reading 'The Boy and the Rainbow'. It is a beautiful book with lots of descriptive language and the children love writing about it. In Maths, we have been recapping place value and in Science we have been learning about materials. We have begun our Vikings topic in History and DT and we have learnt about what Hindus believe in RE, creating our own Identity Jigsaws to describe what is important to us.

Can you find examples of numbers up to 10,000,000 either in the news or the Internet or maybe in a book?

In Year 6 this week, we have been reading the wonderful picture book 'The Great Kapok Tree', which is linked to our Geography topic of Brazil and why the rainforest is such a valuable resource. The children have been practising using expanded noun phrases, 'show not tell' techniques and relative clauses to describe the rainforest and the action within the story. In Maths, we have been looking at numbers up to 10,000,000 and also negative numbers. Our Science topic this half term, is about Evolution and Inheritance. We had great fun using the Mr Men and the Little Miss characters to draw what we think their children might look like! The children have also enjoyed sampling some Spanish food and drink, as an introduction to learning Spanish this year.



Safeguarding

Supporting our children's safety

Parents and carers often appreciate extra advice and support. This might be about how to cope with a crying baby; working out whether a child is old enough to walk home from school alone; or thinking about how to keep their child safe online. Here, you will find weekly selected advice and information for you to access.

Top tips to support children and young people

Be there to listen

Regularly ask how they're doing so they get used to talking about their feelings and know there's always someone to listen if they want it. Find out how to create a space where they will open up.

[How to start a conversation with your child](#)

Support them through difficulties

Pay attention to their emotions and behaviour, and try to help them work through difficulties. It's not always easy when faced with challenging behaviour, but try to help them understand what they're feeling and why.

[Help with difficult behaviour and emotions](#)

Stay involved in their life

Show interest in their life and the things important to them. It not only helps them value who they are but also makes it easier for you to spot problems and support them.

Encourage their interests

Being active or creative, learning new things and being a part of a team help connect us with others and are important ways we can all help our mental health. Support and encourage them to explore their interests, whatever they are.

Take what they say seriously

Listening to and valuing what they say, without judging their feelings, in turn makes them feel valued. Consider how to help them process and work through their emotions in a more constructive way.

[The Anna Freud Centre support guide](#)

Build positive routines

We know it still may not be easy, but try to reintroduce structure around regular routines, healthy eating and exercise. A good night's sleep is also really important – try to get them back into routines that fit with school or college.

[Sleep tips for children](#)

Help and support if your child is suffering from a mental health condition

Young Minds (www.youngminds.org.uk) - and its sister site [HeadMeds](#).

Mental Health First Aid England (www.mhfaengland.org)

Time to Change (www.time-to-change.org.uk)

CALM (www.thecalmzone.net)

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/onlinesafety

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

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Useful links

All school information and communication www.classlist.com

Payment link for school dinners and class trips www.pay360educationpayments.com

Our website <http://www.dorchesterprimary.com/>

Use the website for our Twitter @DorchesterP

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/dorchesterprimary>

Sutton Education Trust website <http://www.suttoneducationtrust.com/>

The value for this half term is **Responsibility.**

Taking responsibility for oneself is by definition an act of kindness.

SHARON SALZBERG

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One 30/08 20/09 11/10 08/11 29/11	Option 1	Macaroni Cheese	Pork Sausages * with Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken * with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Lasagne * with Garlic Bread	MSC Salmon Fish fingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Vegetable and Bean Fajitas with 50/50 Rice	Vegan Sausage with Potato Wedges	Vegetable Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Tomato and Lentil Pasta with Garlic Bread	Hammy Pie with Chips
	Vegetables	Green Beans Carrots	Baked Tomatoes Sweetcorn	Cauliflower Broccoli	Roasted Vegetables Sweetcorn	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Slicky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard	Oaty Cookie	Fruit and Yoghurt Station	Mandarin Jelly	Carrot & Courgette Cake with Custard
Week Two 06/09 27/09 18/10 15/11 06/12	Option 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with New Potatoes	Macaroni Beef * Pasta Bake	Roast Gammon * with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Mediterranean Chicken * with Rice	MSC Fish Fingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Vegetable Tagine with Couscous	Roasted Cauliflower Curry with Rice	Roasted Quorn with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Vegetarian Lasagne	Mexican Bean Roll with Chips
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn Broccoli	Peppers Carrots	Carrots Cabbage	Green Beans Cauliflower	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Pear Crumble with Custard	Chocolate Shortbread	Fruit and Yoghurt Station	Peach Upside Down Cake with Custard	Apple Flapjack
Week Three 13/09 04/10 01/11 22/11 13/12	Option 1	Vegetarian Tortilla Stack with Rice	Beef Burger * with Wedges	Roast Turkey * with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Arrabiata Pasta Bake	MSC Fish in Batter with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Quorn Burger with jacket Wedges	Mixed Vegetable Loaf with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Wholemeal Vegetable Pasta Bake	BBQ Quorn with Chips
	Vegetables	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Garden Peas Carrots	Carrot and Swede Mash Cabbage	Green Beans Cauliflower	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Rice Pudding with Mixed Berries	Apple Cake with Custard	Pinwheel Cookie	Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Sauce	Fresh Fruit Salad

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 a member of the catering team 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.

* HALAL OPTION AVAILABLE



DPS Diary

30 th September	Nursery coffee morning and afternoon
1 st October	Start of Black History Month
5 th October	World Teachers Day
12 th October	Year 1 Dinosaur morning + High School applications drop in parents session 3.30 - 4 .15
15 th October	Reading and Phonics parent drop in session 2-3pm
18 th October	High School applications drop in parents session 3.30 - 4 .15
22 nd October	SET INSET DAY
25 th – 29 th October	Half term
1 st November	First day of Autumn 2 term
4 th November	Nursery parents phonics workshops 8.45am & 2pm
12 th November	Reception phonics workshop for parents 9-10am
15 th November	Transgender Awareness Week
16 th – 17 th November	Individual Class Photos
29 th November	Booklet Week
7 th December	Foundation Stage Nativities 9.15am & 2.15pm
14 th December	Year 2 Nativity 9.30am & 1.30pm
16 th December	Nursery end of term
17 th December	End of Autumn 2 term
20 th Dec – 3 rd Jan	Christmas Holidays
4 th January	INSET DAY
5 th January	First day of Spring 1 term
11 th February	Last day of Spring 1 term
14 th – 18 th Feb	Half term
21 st February	First day of Spring 2 term
30 th March	Nursery end of term
31 st March	End of Spring 2 term
1 st – 18 th April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 19 th April	First day of Summer 1 term
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
30 th May – 3 rd June	Half term

6th June	INSET DAY
7th June	First day of Summer 2 term
20th July	Nursery end of term
21st July	End of Summer 2 term
22nd July	INSET Day