



### Dear Parents and Carers

The past few weeks has felt as if we have reached a crescendo to a busy year with the Key Stage 2 end of the year production, Year 6 leavers events of the BBQ and rounders event for Y6 and their families and Year 6 leavers trip to Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth for bowling, Frankie and Benny's and cinema. The rest of the school have had Sports day, the school summer fayre, music concerts and dance shows to name but a few! I am so proud of our wonderful children and dedicated staff at Durley School and grateful for the support of parents and the Governing Body who have together made this school year amongst our best.

Congratulations to all of our pupils in Key Stage 2 for an incredible end of year performance of Alibaba and the Bogo Bandits last week. It was extremely funny, with some great acting, singing and dancing performances from our pupils. Many thanks to all of our staff involved in the production and to parents for helping out with costumes, learning words and to the Powel family for providing the fabulous backdrop.



The Governing Body have continued to monitor standards across the school to ensure pupil progress is high on the school's agenda. The work of the school improvement plan is central to their work and continues to drive the school forward. This year we have had a focus on reading across the school with very successful family reading evenings and Battle of the Books for children at Key Stage 2. I am sure Mrs Cook would like to remind you all of the Libraries summer reading challenge, which for those of you struggling to get to the local library can complete it online.

This is the season of music exams. We congratulate our recorder players who did Grades 1 and 2 everyone received a distinction and there was a Merit in the flute exam.

Our overall school attendance over the year has been at 95.3% an increase from last years 94.8% and higher than National attendance at 94.7%. We look forward to an even greater improvement in the coming year.

This week we are saying goodbye to teaching assistant Miss Saunders from Blue class as she flies off to Romania to support underprivileged children in a summer camp prior to starting her teaching qualification in September. We also send our good wishes to Mrs Bishop, who has been teaching in Yellow class this year, as she takes up a position in the National Health Service, and to Miss Phillips as

she starts her maternity leave.

As the school year ends and holidays approach, we say a fond farewell to our Year 6 leavers.

It is with sadness and pride, we wish them all the very best of luck as they prepare to move on to the next stage of their education. Our Year 6 leavers will be going off to Wyvern College, Churchers, Deer Park, Meoncross, Swanmore Secondary School, Thornden School, Henry Cort and Crestwood School in September.



They will be missed by us all.

We also say goodbye to the families who have had a long standing association with the school and who will also be leaving us. We thank them for their tremendous support of Durley School over the years. For those of you who have been involved with the school for many years, we have worked out that one of our leavers will have had children in the school for past 23 Years which must be an all time record!

### **SCHOOL WEBSITE**

We have a new school website, which went live yesterday and we are gradually updating. It is much easier for us to update which we hope you will find very helpful.

### **LUNCHES**

If your child is starting in Year 3 in September, this unfortunately marks the end of the Universal Free School Meals scheme. If you think you might be eligible for income related free school meals please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Lunches will be charged at £3.20 per child, which will provide them with a varied and healthy selection of hot meals, salad, vegetables, homemade fresh bread and desserts. Can we please remind you that our school is a nut free environment so please ensure packed lunches are also nut free. Please note the price increase from September.

### **MUSIC AND SWIMMING LESSONS**

Next term, Recorder and piano lessons will begin on Friday 6 September. Woodwind and Brass lessons will begin in the week starting Monday 9 September with Brass every Monday and Woodwind on a Thursday.

Next term, we will only be taking all of the children in Years 3 and 4 for weekly swimming lesson in Winchester commencing on Friday 20 September. The children will have 8 one hour lessons for a total price of £60. We will be sending out permission letters and a questionnaire at the start of term to help us to group the children by swimming ability.

## GOVERNOR NEWS

We have 2 Parent Governors whose term of office is due to come to an end at the start of the autumn term – Nina Robinson and Jemma Parker. They are both keen to continue, however if you feel that you would be interested in becoming a school Governor, we also have a co-opted position available. If you would be interested please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Jenny Carkeet, chair of Governors for further information.

## TERM DATES

The school closes for the summer holiday period today Thursday 19 July and will re-open on **Tuesday 3 September 2024 at 8:45am**. Monday 2 September will be a staff training day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at Durley School for their commitment and care for your children over the year.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you all for the tremendous support once again this year, and for the many generous presents we have received. We wish you all a fun packed and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you for the start of the new term in September.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break,  
Kind regards,

*Kirstie Baines*

Kirstie Baines  
**Headteacher**

## IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS (School Closures) for academic year 2024-2025

Monday 2 September 2024  
Friday 20 December 2024  
Monday 2 June 2025  
Monday 21 July 2025  
Tuesday 22 July 2025

## Diary Dates for the 2024-2025 school year

### Autumn Term 2024

Tuesday 3 September	8:45 School opens for the summer term
W/b 9 September	all after school activity clubs start
W/b 9 September	all music lessons start
Thursday 19 September	5:30pm Family Reading Night
Friday 20 September	Year 3 and 4 Swimming lessons start
Thursday 26 September	9:15 Harvest Festival
Wednesday 25 September	Sponsored Fancy Dress Fun Run
Thursday 10 October	OPEN DAY for new parents
Thursday 10 October	5:00-6:15 EYFS/KS1 disco
Tuesday 15 October	3:00-6:00pm Parent's meeting with classteacher
Thursday 17 October	4:00-7:00pm Parent's meeting with classteacher
Friday 18 October	Year 6 Bikeability
Monday 21 October	Year 6 Bikeability

Thursday 24 October Red and Green class visit to Butser Farm museum  
Friday 25 October 6:30-8:00pm KS2 disco

**23-27 October HALF TERM**

Monday 11 November 10:45am Remembrance Service  
Friday 15 November Children in Need  
Thursday 21 November Photographer in school (portraits)  
Friday 29 November Non uniform day for sweet tombola  
DSA Christmas Fayre  
Monday 2 December School Christmas Post Box open  
Wednesday 4 December Non uniform day – bottle tombola  
Saturday 7 December DSA Christmas Fayre  
Wednesday 11 December 9:20am Blue and Yellow Class Nativity  
Thursday 12 December 9:20am Blue and Yellow Class Nativity  
Friday 13 December KS2 church rehearsal  
Tuesday 17 December pm Class Christmas parties  
Wednesday 18 December Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day  
Thursday 19 December 1:30pm Carol Service in Holy Cross Church  
School ends at 3:30pm. No after school child care or clubs.