



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 2 – 17th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy two weeks it has been! The Key Stage 2 residentials were fantastic and the weather was kind to us, which was just what we needed. It doesn't seem possible that we are nearing the end of the spring term – it really has flown by.

Residentials

Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic 3 days away at 'Home Farm' in Beaulieu, accompanied by Mrs May, Mrs Pink, Ms Humphries, Mrs Clegg and I – the sun shone and we had an amazing time. The children enjoyed tending and caring for the farm's animals, undertaking agricultural and gardening duties, going on a VERY long walk (it tired the children out for the second night!), a great evening by the camp fire, a visit from a falconry expert and his many birds, shelter building and a visit to the motor museum. We packed a lot into 2 days, it has to be said.

The children were an absolute pleasure and we had an amazing time away but there were a lot of tired children (and adults) at the end of the residential.

Year 5/6 Little Canada

This residential was the week after Home Farm, so it was a very quick turnaround. We also had the added challenge of a sickness bug circulating, but with careful planning and mindful parents, Years 5 and 6 set off early on Monday 9th March, Isle of Wight bound!

Throughout the week, they enjoyed numerous activities including: fencing, climbing, blind trail and abseiling to name a few. Mr Firth, Assistant Headteacher, said 'The children were a credit to our school and were amazing throughout the week. It really was a great time away.' Other members of staff who attended were Mrs Abraham, Mrs Sims and Mrs McNicholas-George.

Vocal Festival

I had the great pleasure of watching our talented Year 3 and 4 children sing in the Wyvern Cluster Vocal Festival at Thornden Hall last week. It was an amazing performance with all of our singers doing their best to make it a truly memorable performance. Well done to all involved, they were all given a Headteachers award for their effort in representing our school. Thank you to Ms Alexander and Mr Burgess for supporting the children with learning the songs.



DSA

The DSA are holding a quiz night on Friday 20th March. This follows the hugely successful bingo night last term which was brilliantly supported by so many members of our school community. Please do support the quiz if you are able – the money raised goes directly back to benefiting the children of Durley School.

School Grounds Day

Following the success of last year, the annual School Grounds Day will be held on **Friday 22nd May**. We are planning lots of projects, so if you are able to spare any time, please keep this date free. We will be in touch nearer the time to provide information about the items the school needs and equipment to bring on the day.

On the Grounds Day, current thoughts are that we are seeking to:

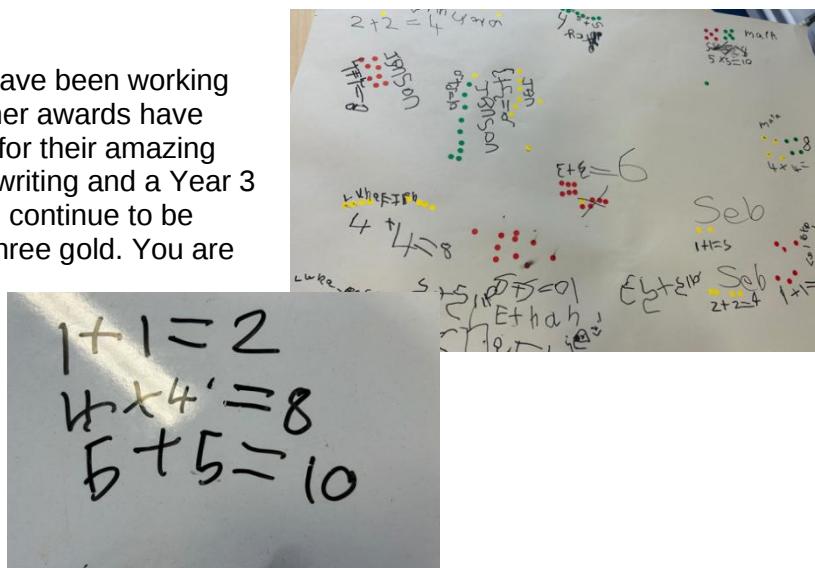
- Update the fencing that separates the upper and lower school playground
- Plant up the raised beds outside Red and Green Classes
- Re-vamp the outdoor area in Blue and Yellow Class
- Fix fencing
- Build storage for playground equipment

Amazon Wishlist

We are always so grateful for the support we get for our school, especially from the DSA, but following a recent governor's meeting, we have put together an Amazon wishlist. If you feel able to purchase any items on the wish list, it would be much appreciated. A separate letter and link will be sent out soon.

Amazing Children

Well done to three pupils in Year R who have been working hard on their maths 'doubling'. Headteacher awards have been given to the Year 5s in Green class for their amazing poetry, one of our Year 1 pupils for great writing and a Year 3 pupil for skillful maths. Class Dojo awards continue to be given with three bronze, eight silver and three gold. You are all superstars, please keep up the good work!



A few Reminders

We are continuing to see a lot of children wearing trainers and incorrect school uniform. I know only too well how expensive items such as school shoes are but please can you ensure that your child has the correct school uniform.

Hair: Please can you ensure that if your child has long hair (shoulder length and longer) that it is tied back. From a health and safety viewpoint, eg. During PE or at breaktime, this is much more appropriate.

Earrings: If your child has their ears pierced, they must only wear studs – not any dangly earrings please. Where possible, earrings should be taken out for PE or taped over. We have a small supply of tape in school but if you can provide this for your child, it would be very much appreciated. Please note, if your child is wearing dangly earrings, they will be asked to remove them.

Jewellery and nail polish: Children must not wear any other jewellery such as bracelets or necklaces and nail varnish is not permitted. We do have some nail varnish remover and we will ask children to remove nail varnish.

PE kit: In addition to this, if your child has not got their PE kit, we will, as far as possible, get them to take part in the lesson and they will receive a 'neutral' do-jo for a lack of kit. If this happens again, it will result in a negative do-jo.

Focus tools: Finally, we are also noticing an increase in children bringing in their own 'focus tools' or cuddly toys. We are very happy to provide focus tools if there is a specific need but please can we ask that, unless it has been agreed with the SENCo, that children do not bring their own from home.

This is because, ones that are not school-based have, in the past, for example, burst and I have known this to cause an allergic reaction.

Attendance

Thank you ever so much for the support and vigilance you all showed in response to the sickness bugs that have been circulating. These seem to have improved and hopefully with the warmer, sunnier weather, we will all be a bit healthier!

As Headteacher, I am required to focus on children's attendance and this is something that both the local authority, Hampshire County Council and Department for Education (DfE) look at and monitor. This is also a focus in the new OFSTED framework and part of our Safeguarding procedures.

I know that there are times when children cannot help being poorly and if they are sick, there are times they need to stay at home. However, if your child has, for example, a headache or a tummy ache, we can always administer liquid paracetamol here and keep a close eye on them, calling you if need be. We have a team of trained first aiders and the ladies in the office are well versed at providing medical care when needed.

A child is deemed '*persistently absent*' when their attendance falls below 90% and this equates to just one day off every two weeks or 19 school days over the course of a year.

The effects of this can be:

- Academic underachievement – there is a clear correlation between attendance and attainment. Research shows that students with high absence rates are less likely to achieve 9-4 grades at GCSE.
- Social, emotional development and mental health – children miss out on crucial interaction, bonding with peers and having to catch up when they return is tricky
- Reduced future earnings – data shows that students who are frequently absent could earn £10,000 less at age 28

I know only too well, as a Mum, that there are times when children struggle to come to school or when you are finding things hard too. Please rest assured that we are here to help and support and work with you if there are things that are affecting your child's attendance.

Outstanding Debts

As we fast approach the end of the Spring term, this coincides with the end of the financial year. **Please ensure that all debts for trips, dinners and childcare clubs are paid before the 27 March to ensure we comply with the required deadline.**

Match funding / company funding / re-decoration

If your company participates in match funding or donates staff time for renovations, please do get in touch. Following the recent successful re-decoration of the children's toilets, we are keen to re-vamp the staff toilets and school hall. If you are able to help with this, please get in touch.

Mr Wyatt, our caretaker, is planning to re-paint the staff toilets over the Easter holidays. If you can spare any time, please let the office know.

We are also seeking to 'skim' the walls of the staff toilets. Are you a plasterer who would be willing to do this? If you are, do let us know!

2026/2027 INSET Days

The five in-service training days for the 26/27 Academic Year have been agreed and these are as follows: Tuesday 1 September 26, Monday 30 November 26, Friday 12 February 27, Thursday 25 March 27 and Monday 28 June 27.

Easter Service

We are looking forward to our up-coming Easter service which will take place on Friday 27th March at 1.30pm. We would be very grateful of volunteers to help us escort the children to the church. If you are able to do this and would like to join us for the service, please let us know.

Best wishes,

Caroline Grist

Headteacher

Calendar Dates for 2026

IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS (School Closures) for academic year 2025-2026

Wednesday 3 September 2025

Monday 3 November 2025

Friday 5 December 2025

Monday 1 June 2026

Wednesday 22 July 2026

**Diary Dates for the 2025-2026 school year – all dates can be subject to change.
All changes and new dates in the diary will appear in red.**

Spring Term 2026

Friday 20 March	6:00-8:00pm DSA Easter themed quiz night and film
Friday 27 March	1:30pm Easter service in Holy Cross Church, Durley.
Friday 27 March	No after school childcare club

EASTER HOLIDAYS 30 March – 10 April

Summer Term 2026

Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday
11-14 May	Year 6 SATs
Dates throughout May tbc	DSA Durley Bear Hunt
18-22 May	Walk to School week
Monday 18 May	Whole school, year groups and year 6 photos
Thursday 21 May	DSA Discos (KS1 3:45-5:00. KS2 5:15-6:45)
Friday 22 May	School grounds day

HALF TERM 25-29 May

Monday 1 June	Inset day
Thursday 11 June	7:30-8:30 New Year R parents meeting
Tuesday 16 June	9:30-10:30 New Year R session 1
Wednesday 17 June	13:30 Sports Day
Tuesday 23 June	9:30-10:30 New Year R session 2
Wednesday 24 June	14:15 Summer music concert
Thursday 25 June	5:30-6:30 Summer family reading night
Tuesday 30 June	9:30-10.30 New Year R session 3

Friday 3 July	Year 6 Leavers Services Portsmouth Cathedral
Friday 3 July	4:00-7:30 DSA Summer Fayre
Monday 6 July	KS2 production dress rehearsal
Tuesday 7 July	6:00 KS2 production
Wednesday 8 July	1:30 KS2 production
Thursday 9 July	6:00 KS2 production
Tuesday 21 July	13:30 Year 6 leavers service Holy Cross Church
Tuesday 21 July	No after school childcare club
Wednesday 22 July	Inset day

SUMMER HOLIDAYS