



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 – 18th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to our recent Remembrance Service – this was another 'first' for me as headteacher and I thought our children did amazingly well. From the wonderful musicians, to the beautiful reading of the poems and singing, it really was a memorable morning. I am very glad the weather was kind to us and we were able to go to the memorial garden.



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated a Christmas shoe box. Below is a message to our school community from the Hamble Valley Rotary Club.

Dear Durley School

A huge thank you to those pupils and families who contributed an amazing 25 Christmas shoeboxes to our total of 180 boxes this year. These were delivered to the depot in Boscombe on 2nd November where they formed part of the total District collection of 19,145 shoeboxes which are now packed in 1,278 cartons on 112 pallets and set to go!

The overall total is slightly less than last year, largely thought to be due to increased living costs. However, as far as our club is concerned, our total was about the same as previous years and needless to say, our efforts will undoubtedly bring some pleasure this Christmas to disadvantaged and displaced children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Ukraine (via Poland) including Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

Once again, a massive thank you to those who contributed and helped us continue our support to this worthy project.

Amazing Children

It has been so lovely to see so many children achieving their bronze award for achieving 100 do-jos. I have been lucky enough to be in the office when lots of the children have come to collect their badge. We have also been celebrating this special achievement in worship. Well done!

I would also like to say well done for some amazing maths work in school with many children trying very hard to improve. Keep up the good work!

Year 6 Visit to D-Day Museum

On Monday 10 November, Year 6 enjoyed a full day at the D-Day Museum in Portsmouth. They were involved in lots of workshops including dressing up and a tour of the landing craft. Thank you all for being so very well behaved and for taking such an interest in this important topic.



Children in Need

We also celebrated Children in Need last Friday, 14th November. The children loved making our line of coins along the school corridor and into the hall. Thank you to everybody who

donated. We also celebrated some of the great work classes did on this day and Blue Class were proud to show their fantastic masks in Celebration Worship.



Anti-Bullying Week

Last week, we focused on Anti-Bullying Week and it was great to welcome the children into school on Monday 17th November wearing their odd socks. We explored this in worship and discussed the need for mutual respect and diversity. Throughout the week, classes participated in different activities and the week culminated in Celebration Worship where we enjoyed seeing children's drama, Anti-Bullying posters and hearing about their wonderful learning.

A huge thank you to all the children who took part in the school's Anti-Bullying poster competition. Our Kindness Ambassadors have judged the entries and we will be announcing the winners in Celebration Worship.



Help needed!

I am keen to facilitate a mini-refurbishment of both the pupil and staff toilets and we are asking for your help. Last week, I met with our fantastic caretaker, Mr Darren Wyatt and he has been hard at work since starting in September. If you have any painting and decorating skills or are a keen DIY person, please do let us know. We are looking to re-paint all the toilets and are also keen to look at new flooring and upgrading the tiles if possible.

Unfortunately, as a small school, our budget is extremely tight and we have had many unexpected costs to fund last year. Therefore, this means we are in very short supply of extra funds! Please do contact the school office if you feel you could spare a couple of hours or indeed donate any paint or resources.

We are also keen to tidy up the hall and re-configure some of the musical instruments and wraparound care resources. If you are changing any of your storage or have an Ikea shelving, please let us know!

New Head of Kitchen and Assistant

Some of you may be aware that since September we have been without a permanent Head of Kitchen and Assistant so we have sometimes struggled at lunchtime with consistency. Hampshire Catering have now successfully recruited Miss Katie Humphreys and Mrs Louise Gregory and they both started this week. We wish both Katie and Louise the best of luck as part of the wider Durley team.

Lateness and Parking

Please can I remind parents that unless we have been advised otherwise, we expect all children to be in school by 9:00am each day for registration and collected promptly at 3:30pm. We have seen increasing numbers of pupils being dropped and collected late recently for no apparent reason. Please contact the office if your child is going to be late into school and book in to the afterschool childcare club if you cannot collect or arrange for your child to be collected at 3:30pm.

Can I also remind you to please park responsibly, respectfully and safely and that parking and turning on the track is not permitted.



We are a Nut Free School

As we start this half term, can I remind you that we do not allow any children to bring nuts into school, this includes products that may contain nuts as we currently have a number of pupils with a severe allergic reaction.



We are a Banana Free School

We also have a pupil with a severe banana allergy. As before, we will not be offering bananas as part of our fruit snack for EYFS/KS1 children and urge you to ensure bananas are not part of your child's packed lunch. Thank you for your support with this.

Best wishes,

Caroline Grist
Headteacher

Calendar Dates for 2025-2026

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.

Autumn Term 2025

Thursday 20 November	Portrait photos in school – pre-school children welcome from 8:30am
Sunday 23 November	Stir up Sunday service in school from 9:30am
Wednesday 26 November	Year R/1 Fairytale workshop
Friday 28 November	Non-uniform day in exchange for bottles for DSA Family Bingo Night
Monday 1 December	School post Box Open for Christmas cards
Wednesday 3 December	DSA 12 Days of Xmas daily raffle starts
Thursday 4 December	5:00-7:00pm DSA Family Bingo Night
Friday 5 December 2025	INSERVICE Training Day – No school for children
Wednesday 10 December	Village Carols at Memorial Hall – all welcome 5:00pm
Wednesday 10 December	9:15am Blue and Yellow class Nativity play
Thursday 11 December	9:15am Blue and Yellow class Nativity play
Thursday 11 December	Year 6 singing carols at Durley Seniors Luncheon Club
Monday 15 December	Holy Cross Church Angel Festival starts
Wednesday 17 December	pm Christmas parties
Thursday 18 December	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day for Children's society

Friday 19 December	1:30pm Christmas Carol Service in Holy Cross Church
Friday 19 December	No after school childcare club
Sunday 21 December	Village Carol Service at Holy Cross Church – all welcome
	3:30pm

XMAS HOLIDAYS	22 December – 2 January
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Spring Term 2026

Monday 5 January	Spring term starts
Thursday 8 January	Year 6 Bikeability
Thursday 8 January	3:40pm SATs meeting for parents of Y6 pupils in Green class
Friday 9 January	Y6 Bikeability
Friday 30 January	1:30 Christingle service in Holy Cross Church, Durley
Tuesday 10 February	Safer Internet Day

HALF TERM	16-20 February
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Tuesday 24 February	3:00-5:00pm Parents Evening
Thursday 26 February	4:00-7:00pm Parents Evening
2-4 March 2026	Year 3 and 4 residential trip to Home Farm, Beaulieu
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day
9-13 March 2026	Year 5 and 6 residential visit to Little Canada, Isle of Wight
Thursday 12 March	Wyvern Cluster Vocal Festival
Sunday 22 March	Mothering Sunday Café Church in school
Monday 23 March	2:30 Music concert
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
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