



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 – 19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to start by saying how grateful I am to all parents for the swift and calm way you collected your children yesterday. We do not take the decision to close the school early lightly but as I'm sure you will appreciate and agree it was the appropriate action given the amount of water we were dealing with. I would like to say a very special thank you to Mr Haines who stayed outside the school for over an hour clearing the drains, directing traffic and generally trying his best to keep the water at bay as much as possible. Thank you, we are very grateful for your efforts.

Apart from yesterdays near flooding, what a brilliant term it has been! I cannot believe that the autumn term is drawing to a close and I have been Headteacher since September. A special well done to the pupils of Blue and Yellow Class who did amazingly well in their recent nativity. I have had so many positive comments from parents and carers and it was great to welcome so many of you to the performances. A huge thank you to the staff who worked tirelessly with the children to put on such a lovely nativity and to you, as parents and carers, for your support of your children too. It is much appreciated. The donations will go towards blue and yellow classes.

Staffing

We sadly said goodbye to Mrs Jane Kay on Wednesday. Jane joined Durley School 17 years ago and has supported so many children during her time here. She has worked across the school in many classes, more recently working in Yellow Class as a Teaching Assistant and also covering teachers when they have planning time. Jane leaves our school to start her retirement and is also eagerly awaiting the arrival of her second grandchild. We wish Jane all the very best for the future and I am sure you will join me in saying she will be very much missed.



DSA Bingo Evening

A huge thank you for all the members of the DSA for organising and putting on such a fantastic evening. It was great to see so many of our families attend this event. I am delighted to announce that the DSA have raised £1,301.79 which is amazing.



Thank you to the DSA for donating the baubles this year. Unfortunately, between the time they were put on the tree and today a few have gone missing, so I am very sorry if your child did not bring one home with their name on. The DSA work extremely hard for our school and as a result of their efforts, we have been able to purchase some great new playground equipment, which includes two brand new football goals. These have been put to good use this week and the children are loving using these at break and lunchtime. We also bought some new footballs, netballs and basketballs for use in P.E lessons.

Amazing Children

A huge well done to 4 of our talented Green Class pupils who came to show me their amazing writing and I am so proud of their efforts.

It has been so lovely to see so many children achieving their bronze award for achieving 100 do-jos. We have also had a few children who have achieved their silver award! A fantastic achievement!

I would also like to congratulate another one of our Green Class pupils for being recognised for demonstrating kindness to a younger child in breakfast club. The child and their parent sent her a beautiful Christmas card to thank her. I also presented her with a Headteachers Award, I am so proud of her efforts.

Finally, I am delighted to let you know that one of our Year 5 pupils is fundraising for the Little Princess Trust and would greatly appreciate your support. As many of you will know, this young man has a fantastic head of blond hair and has decided to chop off his lovely locks and donate them to this amazing charity. I have put the link to his 'Just Giving' page below. I am sure you will join me in wishing him all the best for this brave action – it is such a worthy cause.



https://www.justgiving.com/page/chris-acton-11?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EMJustGiving

Mrs Cook's Lunchtime Clubs

Our school is very fortunate to have Mrs Cook, our school librarian and she also runs both Lego and marbles' clubs. The children love attending these activities at lunchtime and Rev Mensingh joined in too!

Thank you

Our school would like to thank Mr Brewer for kindly donating a Christmas tree for our school hall. I am sure you will agree that it looks beautiful.

I would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Porter for donating some money which is going to help fund the mini-renovations I outlined in the last newsletter. This is much appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who has kindly sent in Christmas cards, treats and presents over the past few days. The staff and I are very grateful for all your support and generosity.

Poppy Appeal

I am delighted to let you know that we have raised a fantastic £151.53 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and this contributed to the £9000 that was raised in our district. Thank you for your support with this!

Menu Changes- School Dinners – New Company

As some of you may already know, the company providing children's school dinners is changing from January 2026 and Chartwells will be taking over. I am pleased to let you know that as a result, the cost of a school meal will be at the reduced price of £2.75.

However, while this is great news for you, as parents, it will put significant financial pressure on schools and indeed us here at Durley. The reason is that when meals were cooked by HC3S, the price included servicing and maintenance of our kitchen equipment. The new company does not provide this which means that these costs will be incurred by the school.

Unfortunately, school budgets remain under immense pressure and ours at Durley is very tight. For example, we run at a loss for school trips, swimming and residentials and the cost of resources has rocketed.

We rely heavily on financial support from the DSA, who have, for example, funded playground equipment and teacher laptops.

To this end, if you are able to spare any money to help support our school, we would be very grateful. When we discussed this issue at a recent Governor's meeting, they suggested I outline these pressures to you.

We have set up a Governor's donation section on SCOPAY – if you are able to donate anything – however small – we would be very grateful.

Mini Renovations

As outlined in my last newsletter, we are keen to facilitate some mini-renovations in our school. We have had lots of parents volunteer, which is lovely. We will be in touch in the New Year with details of these works.

Communication

Please can we remind parents that you should only use the adminoffice@durley.hants.sch.uk for general messaging. Please do not use ClassDojo as there is no guarantee your child's teacher will see messages during the school day. If somebody different is collecting your child, especially if not on a regular person, please let the teacher, TA or the office know. Please also remember that we need as much notice as possible if you wish to use the childcare clubs or need to cancel.

Sports Clubs

GT Sports Coaching will be starting their clubs on a Monday and Tuesday directly after the Christmas break, the other activity clubs will start week commencing 12 January.

Unfortunately due to very low numbers we will not be running the KS1 Multi-sports on a Friday next term.



Reminder – 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.

Thank you to those who have helped in walking up to the church service today and for attending the service. I hope you agree that the children sang beautifully. Unfortunately this year we will not be serving refreshments in the hall after the service, however the DSA will be selling donuts and sausage rolls.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of our Durley families a very happy Christmas and all the very best for 2026. I have loved my first term as Headteacher of Durley School and cannot thank you enough for the warm welcome you have shown and the support you give. It really means the world.

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

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
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