



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 2 – 21 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! What a fantastic year we have had at Durley CE Primary School – it seems impossible we are approaching the end of the academic year and my first as your Headteacher. A huge thank you to all of you, as parents and carers for your incredible support, enthusiasm and commitment of your children, our staff and our school. It really is much appreciated and we couldn't do all we do in school without you. Durley is such a special place.

Goodbye to Staff

Tomorrow, we say farewell to Mr Firth, our fantastic Assistant Headteacher. Mr Firth has been of great support to me in my role as Headteacher and I have valued him greatly. I know he will be very much missed by children, staff and you as our parent community, but our loss is another school's gain. His departure is also testament of the commitment the school places on developing staff professionally and I know Mr Firth demonstrates great potential and I have no doubt, in the not-too-distant future, I will hear he has been appointed a Headteacher. I am sure you will join me in wishing him all the very best in his new role in Southampton.

Last Wednesday, we also said goodbye to Mr Mike Glanville. Mr Glanville has been at our school for a number of years and has taught many children P.E both in school and in after school clubs. His commitment, passion and enthusiasm will be missed greatly and we wish him well for the future.

Governor Update

I would also like to make you aware that Colette Richmond, our Chair of the Governing Body has sadly resigned as of the end of the academic year. Colette has been a huge support to both me this year and the school in her governor role. Her caring, kind and pragmatic nature has made my first year as Headteacher so much easier and I have been hugely grateful of everything she has done to support the school. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the very best as she takes up a promotion in her job and steps down as a governor. Thank you, Colette for all you have done.

We welcome Mr Kieran Brenchley who was voted in as the new Chair of Governors, starting from September. Again, in his role as vice chair this year, his support to the school has been amazing. We also welcome Mr Jack Wiseman-White as Vice Chair of the Governors and again our thanks goes to him for stepping up as these roles take up so much of people's time.

Pupil Leaders

We have been extremely busy over the last few weeks appointing pupils into leadership positions in readiness for the coming academic year. You might remember in my last newsletter, I outlined plans for implementing a 'GIFT Team' (Growing in Faith Together) in a bid to involve children more in leading collective worship, working across the school with other classes and helping the school prepare for our up-coming diocese inspection. I am delighted to let you know that 10 pupils will form our **GIFT team** from September.

We have also appointed 4 **Sports Leaders** and Ms Alexander and I had the pleasure of seeing these children put their leadership skills into action last Tuesday. They planned and led sports activities for children across the cluster of local schools and did an amazing job!

We took children from Year 2/3 to the event in Botley and they did the school proud! Well done to you all.

House Captains

Following all the school (children and staff!) being invited to vote for our four new house names, we have also appointed four house captains and four vice captains.

The names of the four Durley 'houses' for next year will be: **Beech, Oak, Maple and Hazel**

Pupils will be allocated their 'house' in September.

We have also appointed other Year 6 Pupil Leaders in the following roles: **Junior Librarians, Digital Leaders, Year 6 School Councillors, Nature Ninjas.**

All of the children applied with really brilliantly written application forms – they were a pleasure to read. I am so looking forward to working with all of these pupils next year!

Durley Dancers

Some of our children recently represented our school at the Integr8 Dance Off show and did fantastically well! The children were super ambassadors for the school and demonstrated exemplary behaviour. Really well done everyone!

Farewell to Year 6

We are sadly saying goodbye to our amazing Year 6 pupils today. These children will hold a special place in my heart being the first Year 6 cohort in my Headship and they have been an absolute pleasure. I have been so struck all year by their kindness, maturity, exemplary manners and behaviour – they truly are a wonderful group of children. We will certainly miss them next year, as they move onto the next chapter in their education.

Recently, Mr Firth and I, together with Colette Richmond had the pleasure of accompanying Year 6 to Paultons Park and we had a fab day! Again, the children's behaviour was impeccable and they were superb ambassadors of Durley School.

We also had a great leaver's service at Portsmouth Cathedral and again the children were amazing, taking part enthusiastically in different activities and the service itself.

We are very much looking forward to giving them a final send off for their leaver's service at Durley Church and hope you will be able to join us for this final event of the year.

I am sure you will join me in wishing the children of Year 6 all the very best for their future.

Key Stage 2 Production

There have been so many proud moments this half term and the recent Key Stage 2 production was certainly one of them! Despite sweltering conditions, our children did amazingly well and performed with professionalism, charisma and commitment over the course of the three performances.

Summer Fayre

It was lovely to see so many of you at our recent Summer Fayre – we were so lucky with the weather and everyone had a wonderful time! From the raffle, to inflatables, to the performances by our dancers and choir to the tasty BBQ – there really was something for everyone.

A huge thank you goes to the members of the DSA who worked tirelessly to put on this event – these things take months to plan and prepare! Thank you to **Butcher's Block in Fair Oak** who very kindly donated the delicious burgers and sausages for the BBQ – I sampled one myself and it was very tasty!

Summer Family Reading Night

A lovely evening was had by all at the recent Family Reading Evening that was hosted by our school librarian, Mrs Cook. We welcomed children and their parents from across the school who came to listen to stories read by four of our Year 6 pupils. A huge thanks to them for giving up their evening to read to the children. They did a superb job and I was immensely proud of them!

Finally, a special thanks of course must go to Mrs Cook and her family for all the time they took to plan and facilitate the evening – it really was lovely.

Amazing Children

Over these past few weeks we have seen an astonishing number of children do amazingly well earning 8 Headteacher's awards, 2 X-Club badges, 10 Silver Dojos and 23 Gold Dojos. Fantastic achievements all round.

Durley Statutory Assessment Results

As well as all of the things already outlined in this newsletter, children at Durley have also taken part in government statutory assessments over the course of the summer term. These have included: Year 1 Phonics screening tests, EYFS assessments (these are teacher assessments but are still reported on nationally) Year 4 multiplication check and Key Stage 2 SATs. It has been incredibly busy!

You will find the results of these assessments in the document accompanying this newsletter. Huge thanks goes to our super staff team for their hard work and commitment in supporting our children; everyone at Durley School consistently goes over and above. A huge well done to the children for their resilience and determination – they have done our school very proud.

Parent and Carer Questionnaires

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete the recent questionnaire I sent out. I am in the process of analysing the results and will share these with you early in the autumn. There were so many positive comments, praise but also feedback for our school and they have been a pleasure to read. Your views are important as they will help us to continue to develop and improve.

Changes to Free School Meals

Starting September 2026, free school meals in England are expanding to all households on Universal Credit, removing the previous £7,400 income cap. However, older "transitional protections" are ending, meaning **all families must reapply** to secure their meals under the new rules.

The updated scheme separates eligible students into two categories:

- **Targeted:** Families earning £7,400 or less annually on Universal Credit (qualifies for Pupil Premium and additional holiday programs).
- **Expanded:** Families earning over £7,400 on Universal Credit (receives the meal only).

Families are required to actively submit an application to continue or start receiving the meals. Please check your eligibility or to reapply, please click the link below

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals/juniorsecondary>

And finally...

I just want to conclude this newsletter by saying a HUGE thank you each and everyone of you and thank you for all the generous end of term gifts! I have had a fantastic year and am so glad I made the rather daunting leap of applying for the headship of this fab school. You have made me feel incredibly welcome, have been so supportive and this is very much

appreciated. Immense thanks go to our super staff team who have worked tirelessly this academic year for your children – they really are a special group of people. Finally, it would be remiss not to thank the children – they are a credit to the school and have worked so hard this year.

Have a lovely summer with your family and friends and we look forward to welcoming you all back on **Wednesday 2nd September**.

With warm wishes,

Caroline Grist
Headteacher

Calendar Dates for 2026-2027

IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS (School Closures) for academic year 2026-2027

Tuesday 1 September 2026

Monday 30 November 2026

Friday 12 February 2027

Thursday 25 March 2027

Monday 28 June 2027

Diary Dates for the 2026-2027 school year – all dates can be subject to change. All changes and new dates in the diary will appear in red.

Autumn Term 2026

Wednesday 3 September	8:50am start of Autumn Term 2026
Friday 18 September	First Year 3 and 4 swimming lesson
Monday 21 September	Whole School Nasal Flu spray
Friday 25 September	2:00pm Sponsored Fun Run (exact timings tbc)
Wednesday 30 September	2:45pm Phonics meeting for parents of children in Year R
Friday 2 October	2:30pm Harvest festival in school – all welcome
Tuesday 6 October	Open Day 1 for prospective parents
Thursday 8 October	5:30-6:30pm Family Reading Night
Wednesday 14 October	2:45pm maths meeting for parents of pupils in Year R
Wednesday 14 October	3:40 Yr 5/6 Little Canada residential meeting
Tuesday 20 October	3:00-5:00pm Parents Evening
Thursday 22 October	4:00-7:00pm Parents Evening

HALF TERM 26-30 October

Tuesday 3 November	Open Day 2 for prospective parents
Wednesday 11 November	10:45am Remembrance Service – all welcome
Friday 13 November	Children in Need

Friday 13 November	Final Year 3 and 4 swimming lesson
Thursday 19 November	Portrait photos in school – pre-school children welcome
Monday 30 November	INSET DAY
Tuesday 1 December	School post Box Open for Christmas cards
Wednesday 9 December	9:15am Otter and Rabbit class Nativity play
Thursday 10 December	9:15am Otter and Rabbit class Nativity play
Wednesday 16 December	pm Christmas parties
Thursday 17 December	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day
Friday 18 December	1:30pm Christmas Carol Service in Holy Cross Church
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	21 December to 1 January

Spring Term 2027

Thursday 7 January	3:40pm SATs meeting for parents of Y6 pupils
Friday 29 January	1:45pm Christingle service in Holy Cross Church, Durley
Tuesday 9 February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 12 February	INSET DAY
HALF TERM	15-19 February
Thursday 4 March	World Book Day
Friday 19 March	Red Nose Day
Wednesday 24 March	1:30pm Easter service in Holy Cross Church, Durley
Thursday 25 March	INSET DAY
EASTER HOLIDAYS	26 March to 9 April

Summer Term 2027

Friday 7 May	Whole school and class photos
Monday 10 – 13 May	Year 6 SATs
Thursday 13 May	3:30-5:00pm Yr 6 end of SATs rounders and picnic
Wednesday 19 May	3:40pm Yr 2/3 Beaulieu residential meeting
Thursday 20 May	School discos. 3:45-5:00 KS1 5:15-6:45
Friday 21 May	School grounds morning
HALF TERM	31 May to 4 June
Wednesday 16 June	1:30 Sports day
<i>Tuesday 22 June</i>	<i>1:30 Reserve Sports day</i>
Thursday 24 June	5:30-6:30pm Family reading night
Monday 5 July	KS2 Production dress rehearsal
Tuesday 6 July	6:00pm KS2 production
Wednesday 7 July	1:30pm KS2 production
Thursday 8 July	6:00pm KS2 production
Friday 9 July	Year 6 leavers trip

Friday 21 July

1:30 Leavers service at Holy Cross Church

Residential Dates:

Year 5/6 will go to Little Canada, Isle of Wight 18-22 October 2027

Year 3/4 will go to Home Farm, Beaulieu 7-9 February 2028