



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 – 4 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge welcome to you all for the start of this new academic year. It has been lovely to see so many of you whilst I have been on the gate this week and to see the children coming in so smiley. I am sure, like me, although the holidays have been a chance to spend time as a family, you (and your children) are ready to get back to a routine.

Welcome to Staff

We welcome Mrs Esther Lubman to our staff team. She has taken over as teacher of Hedgehog Class (previously Green Class) and we are delighted she has joined our Durley team. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for the start of her time at our school.

As many of you will remember, Mrs Jenny Dew, also starts a new journey at Durley, stepping up as Acting Assistant Headteacher. I am really looking forward to working closely with Mrs Dew in her leadership role and have no doubt she will do a fantastic job.

Other staff news mean that the school office will only be manned by one person each Friday, so please be patient if your emails etc are not answered immediately.

Governor Update

As outlined in July, Mr Kieran Brenchley, was voted in as the new Chair of Governors, starting from 1st September. We also welcome Mr Jack Wiseman-White, as Vice Chair of the Governors. Again, our thanks goes to both these parents for stepping up, as these roles take up so much of people's time.

Changes to P.E

As was set out on Dojo and via emails this week, we have taken the decision that most classes will wear their P.E kits on P.E days. Children will come into school wearing their kit and will stay in this the whole day. The reason we have made this change is to maximise P.E lesson time and it also avoids the issue of a lack of space for changing, which in a school as small as ours, is tricky. I do appreciate this is a last-minute change and apologise if this has caused any inconvenience. Please see below to confirm which days your child does P.E

Otter - Tuesday and Thursday

Rabbit - Thursday and Friday

Fox - Wednesday and Thursday

Hedgehog - Wednesday and Friday

Eagle - Tuesday and Thursday

This information is also going to be sent out on Dojo.

A reminder about P.E kits:

Year R and KS1	KS2
• Royal blue shorts or royal blue jogging bottoms • Logo'd red t-shirt • Children can also wear their cardigan/sweatshirt on colder days • Tights can be worn under shorts if desired • Black or navy blue cycling shorts may be worn but UNDER the royal blue shorts • Plimsolls or trainers	• Royal blue shorts or plain navy or black jogging bottoms • Tights can be worn under shorts if desired • Plain black or navy cycling shorts may be worn but UNDER the royal blue shorts if desired • Logo'd red t-shirt • Children can also wear their cardigan/sweatshirt on colder days • trainers

Please ensure that all P.E kit and school uniform is clearly named.

New School Rules, Vision and Strapline

Last year, we started some work to further develop and improve our school rules, vision and values and this work has continued over the summer. In the spring and summer terms, we worked with children, gaining their views on a range of things, including our school rules, values, vision and collective worship. In response to their ideas, we have made some changes for this year.

School Rules:

Our School Rules have been re-vamped and just three, clear, simple rules, have been adopted, linking with our values and encompassing day-to-day life at Durley. They are:

Be Respectful

Be Ready

Be Safe

These have been introduced to the children and will link to the certificates we award each week.



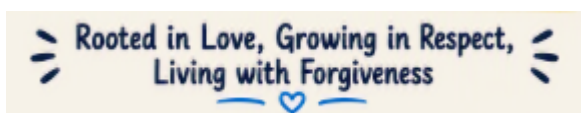
Vision:

Working with Governors, staff and the diocese, together we have re-written our School Vision. This can be found on our website

<https://www.durley.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Values+and+Vision&pid=20>

School Strapline:

We have also developed a 'school strapline' linking with our core Christian Values which we hope is 'catchy' and encompasses life at Durley.



New Class Names and Signs



As you will remember, we decided to change the class names and these were voted on by the children and staff. We are now busy trying to remember which class is which! I am delighted to let you know that new class signs have been professionally made. They have been produced and donated by a local company, owned by the Powell family.

<https://elmtree signs.co.uk/>

The signs have been installed and look fantastic and were designed by the children.

A huge thank you to Elmtree Signs for kindly donating these. We are so grateful.



Grounds Work

As we outlined before the summer, we have plans in place to further develop and improve our school grounds. This work began over the summer and I am sure many of will have noticed the new fences and the area which has been cleared, just outside of Hedgehog Class (formally Green Class). Here is a sneak preview of what we are hoping the new area will look like. This will form a reflection / quiet area for our children and our fantastic DSA will be helping us fund this.

Huge thanks goes to Kieran Brenchley, Tim Wren, Richard Haines, Ben Andrews and Chris Acton who all worked tirelessly to clear the area, ready for the up-coming installation.



Special thanks also goes to Mr Acton's son who came to help – from talking to his Dad, it seems he spent much of the day in the skip breaking up concrete! He has found a new hobby!

A massive thank you also goes to Mr. Reeves, who installed our fantastic new fencing over the summer. He very kindly donated his time and labour and I am sure you'll agree, the fencing looks amazing.

Finally, you will have noticed the re-painting work of playground fences – huge thanks is extended to Kieran Wiseman-White and Lynn, one of our pupil's Nanny. They did a super job and have even promised to come back later on to paint the new fencing. ***If anyone would be able to help, this would be much appreciated.***

Teddy Bear's Picnic

Our very first Teddy Bear's Picnic is being organised by the DSA and is our initial event of the year! It will take place **on Friday 18th September from 3.30-5pm**. We hope to see lots of you there and will keep fingers and toes crossed for good weather. More details to follow.

Also, please remember to return your completed Bear Hunt booklets back to the school office so these can be forwarded to the DSA.

Sport at Durley

As I outlined before the summer, at Durley, we have decided to have just one sporting provider who coaches our children for their outdoor P.E. GT Coaching have taken this on and today, I have met with the provider's leader, Mr George Ayres, to go through initial ideas.

In the next few weeks, him and his team will be working with our Sport's Leaders and House Captains in order to plan activities for this year. We will also be gaining children's views on lunchtimes and how these can be further developed and improved – exciting times ahead!



Parent and Carer Questionnaires

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete the questionnaire I sent out. I will share results with you in the coming weeks. There were so many positive comments, and 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.

Contacting the school

All email communication to the school needs to be sent via adminoffice@durley.hants.sch.uk. Please do not use Dojo to contact your child's teacher to let them know about absence or alternative collection arrangements etc. Please always do so via the school office. Messages will then be passed on to the appropriate person. Thank you.

Don't forget to have a look at the diary dates at the bottom of the newsletter to see what's coming up!

Have a lovely rest of the week – let's hope the sun makes an appearance.

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