

WELCOME TO DURLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Information for families of children starting school in September 2027



Love • Respect • Forgiveness

Rooted in Love, Growing in Respect, Living with Forgiveness

1. Headteacher's welcome

At Durley CE Primary School, we are proud to be a warm, nurturing, inclusive and ambitious Church of England school where every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish.

Rooted in our Christian vision and values of Respect, Love and Forgiveness, we strive to create a safe, happy and inspiring environment in which children develop a lifelong love of learning and a strong sense of belonging.

As a small school at the heart of our village community, we value the strong partnerships we build with parents, carers, governors, our church and the wider community. Working together enables us to provide the very best opportunities for our children and helps to create the warm, family atmosphere for which Durley is known.

I hope this document gives you a flavour of the opportunities, experiences and care that make our school such a special place and I welcome you to attend one of our upcoming open days or contact the school office to arrange a tour if you are unable to make one of the open days.

With warm wishes,

Caroline Grist

Headteacher



2. School team

Our greatest strength is our dedicated and [experienced team of staff](#) led by Mrs Caroline Grist, Headteacher, and supported by Mrs Jenny Dew, Acting Assistant Headteacher. The team work together to create a caring and welcoming community where every child is valued and able to flourish.

In addition to Otter Class staff (information below), families and children in Year R can expect to be supported by Mrs Amanda Pink, Senior Admin Officer, and Mrs Mandy Maitland, Admin Assistant.

The school has the expertise of a dedicated and experienced SENCo, Mrs Nikki Lawrence.

3. Otter Class

Year R pupils are taught and supported by Miss Robyn Garrard, Class Teacher, and Mrs Kelly Cook, Teaching Assistant.



Miss Garrard



Mrs Cook

Miss Garrard loves arts, crafts and singing nursery rhymes (Five Currant Buns is a favourite). She will be there to help the children throughout their time in Year R from finding their coat pegs to teaching them to read, write and use maths in everyday play.

Mrs Cook is also in Otter Class every day to help children settle in and share her love of reading, by helping children learn their sounds, numbers and readings – with plenty of messy craft activities too!

The school also has a therapy dog, Willow, who is in school part of the week and works with children to support them with their wellbeing.



Whilst not an official member of staff, Otter Class (Year R/1) also has a class otter called Oscar. Each week, Oscar goes home with a child who has been showcasing the school's values of 'Respect, Love or Forgiveness'. Oscar always travels with his very own otter game as well as some hot chocolate for a cosy treat.

Children can also expect a weekly trip to the school library with our school librarian, Mrs Marcia Cook. Mrs Cook also organises our termly family reading nights where families are invited into school to enjoy an evening of storytelling. Mrs Cook also hosts an afternoon tea for the children that complete the Summer Reading Challenge!

There are so many activities the children will take part in throughout the year – here is just a small flavour of what Otter Class did last year:

- A trip to Hilliers involving pond dipping, bug sweeping with nets, building animal homes and wriggly bridge walking
- The opportunity to watch caterpillars become butterflies in the classroom Trips to church for Easter and Christmas services
- Science experiments including the egg drop experiment
- The chance to see and touch real fossils and teeth from dinosaurs
- A maths-themed Easter egg hunt and school-wide treasure hunt
- A visit from Little City role play to bring learning topics to life
- A visit from a professional storyteller with lots of singing, dancing and acting





4. Life outside the classroom

Durley School Association (DSA) is a registered charity that raises funds through the school in ways that embrace the family feel of the school including:

- Children's Fancy Dress Fun Run
- Summer Fayre
- Teddy Bears' Picnic – including an inflatable assault course
- Drink stalls at sports day (very much needed after the grown-up races)
- Quiz Nights
- Bingo Nights
- Bear Hunt
- Discos

At the moment, the DSA is fundraising for the new wellbeing area that is going to be built in the school playground later this term (design to the right):



5. Communication

You will find a member of the senior leadership or office team on the playground at the start and end of each day. The school uses a variety of methods to communicate with families, including the ClassDojo app, emails, texts, newsletters, parents evening.

6. Breakfast club and after school club

The school runs its own Breakfast Club (from 8am in the morning) and After School Club (until 5:30pm). Details and prices can be shared on request. Children in Year R can join following the settling in period. There are also a range of activity clubs that children can join from Year 1 onwards.

7. Lunch and snacks

All children in KS1 (Year R – 2) receive free-school meals and fruit snacks in the classroom.

8. Other Classes

We have 5 classes across our school. Otter Class (YR/1), Rabbit Class (Y1/2), Fox Class (Y3/4) Eagle Class, Hedgehog (Y4/5), Eagle Class (Y6). Each class has 30 pupils, apart from Eagle Class which has just 20 children, as this is Year 6 pupils only.



9. Questions

This document is intended to give you a snapshot into life at Durley CE Primary School. We look forward to telling you more about our school at an upcoming Open Day. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office by emailing adminoffice@durley.hants.sch.uk or telephoning 01489 860207. The school office is open between 8:00am and 4:00pm Monday to Friday.