



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 – 17th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to get into the swing of this half term and the children are settling in beautifully. We are very much looking forward to our up-coming Teddy Bears' Picnic on Friday 18th September – 3.30-5pm and our annual sponsored Fun Run on the afternoon of Friday 25th September, a letter will be coming home today with the GoFundMe link. We also have our Harvest service fast approaching and Year 3 and 4 swimming lessons starting this week – it is hard to keep up!

Changes to P.E

Many thanks for your support with the changes to P.E this year. The coaching staff at GT Coaching are settling in well and are fast getting to know the children. They have also been working with our Sports' Leaders and this week helped the children facilitate some races during lunchtime. This was met with much enthusiasm and they did brilliantly!

The coaches have been working with our Sports' Leaders and House Captains to gain their views on ways we can further enhance sports' provision at Durley – more news to follow! We are busy allocating the children into their houses and will be soon starting house sports. It is an exciting time!

Premises Work

I am delighted to announce that the installation of the new reflection garden/well being area will commence on **Wednesday 23rd September**. This is a fantastic project and a great achievement and will be a great quiet area for our children. The DSA have agreed to fund this project and I am so grateful for their hard work and commitment. With reduced budgets, it is so challenging to facilitate work like this, so the money they raise is invaluable.



I am also pleased to let you know that at last, it looks as though our hall will have a makeover and will be redecorated. As many of you will know, at Durley, we continue to struggle with the issue of flooding and we work tirelessly with Hampshire County Council to try and reduce the risk of this happening. During the last major flood, our hall was badly damaged and both Mrs Baines, the previous Headteacher and I have campaigned to get this rectified. We hope the hall will be re-decorated during October half term.

Last year, as well as a new wall, we had new flood barriers installed outside the hall and the hall doors were replaced. In addition to this, I met with local land owners and representatives from Hampshire County Council in the summer to explore the installation of 'leaky dams' and we hope this work will commence soon.

GIFT Team

I started work with the GIFT Team (Growing in Faith Together) and the children have made a super start. They have been busy planning a collective worship based on the theme of kindness and care which will be held next week.

Year 6 Pupil Leaders

Our Year 6 pupil leaders had their first enrichment afternoon last Friday and I was lucky enough to pop into Eagle Class to see how it was going. Our Nature Ninjas were hard at work in the school grounds, our Junior Librarians launched the 'book in a box' for classes and then heard younger children read, the Digital Leaders supported Hedgehog Class during a computing lesson and then planned questions to ask children about internet safety and the school councillors created a job advert and application form for children from other classes to complete to join the school council.

Amazing Children

We are so lucky to have such wonderful, caring children at Durley and pupils who demonstrate such kindness and compassion to others. I have been really impressed by one of our Year 6 girls, who has gone out of her way to welcome new Year R children at breakfast club and another shout-out goes to one of our Year 4 boys, who has made a new Year 3 child so welcome.

Pupils have shown great respect in caring for our school equipment and we have some very helpful children who have been busy sweeping the playground!

Well done to one of our Year R boys from Otter Class for some super phonics work – he was proud to show me how to say the 'p' sound and had written this independently on a whiteboard!

Well done also to two Year 2 girls for their amazing work around harvest. Really well done everyone!

Amazon Wish List

As well as caring and kind children, we are also very lucky to have such a generous and caring parental community. The Amazon wish list has been buzzing with new purchases – thank you so much.



A Busy Term

We are very aware that this term is extremely busy and there are many things going on. We are also mindful that although trips, visits, swimming and sponsored events are lovely, they put added financial pressure on families.

With this in mind and looking at the number of things on the horizon, I will look next year at spreading the autumn events out a little more. For example, in hindsight, having swimming and then a history trip in the same half term is not ideal.

Please do bear with us and if you need support, we will do our best to help. Sadly, I think it is a sign of the times when school budgets are ever tighter and do not increase with the rate of inflation. We have also had funding taken away – for example the sports premium which is around £16,000 per year. Being a small school, although this is great in many ways, means that our budget is smaller but we are expected to provide the same opportunities as larger settings.

I do not have a magic wand, but I wanted to acknowledge that I am aware of the events we have and will continually review them. Please remember to have a look at the diary dates attached to the bottom of this newsletter.

Harvest Service

We are starting to think ahead in preparation for our annual harvest service and we warmly invite you to attend our first service of the year. This will take place on **Friday 2nd October at 2.30pm** in the school hall. We will be supporting the Kings Community Church Food Bank at Hedge End and they have requested donations to include jam, tinned fruit, tinned soup, tinned meat, packet rice, curry sauce, toilet paper, baked beans. Donations can be brought into school throughout the week or on the day.

Great Athlete Event

Having said everything I did in the paragraph above, we are excited to announce that the school will be participating in a 'Great Athlete' sponsored event and will be having a visit from an athlete in the afternoon of **Friday 16th October**. *The great athlete 'reveal' will take place soon.*

More details will be sent out next week. I am aware that this event closely follows the fun run, but this is charity based, with a proportion of the money raised going to charity and other monies going towards sporting equipment for the school. Again, as I have said already, if we decide to take part in this another year, I will make sure it is not so close in date to our own fun run.

Finally, please can I remind you that parking is not permitted on the track or in the accessible bays outside the school unless you have prior agreement. Please also consider other drivers, parents and pupils when dropping and collecting from school.

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

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 (contact office to make appointment)
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 (contact office to make appointment)
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