



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 – 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Fun Run last week and the Teddy Bear's Picnic the week before – it is certainly a hectic time in school at the moment. The children have loved watching the new reflection / well-being area take shape and have been very excited by having a digger and cement mixer on site! I am looking forward to seeing you at the harvest service which I hope you will enjoy.

Staffing News

I am sorry to write that Mrs Karen Clegg, Teaching Assistant in Key Stage 1 will sadly be leaving our school at the end of this half term. After much thought, she has decided to step down from her position and will be very much missed. Having started off as a parent at Durley, with her son, Arthur, attending she became a valued member of the lunchtime team before progressing as a Teaching Assistant and in the breakfast club. She has been a dedicated and committed member of our team throughout this time. We will be very sorry to see her depart Durley after many years at our school. The school is in the process of recruiting for a Teaching Assistant to work in Rabbit Class and I hope I will soon be able to provide details of this appointment.

GIFT Team

It was great to see our newly formed GIFT Team leading collective worship last Thursday. They planned the worship with me, developed their own presentation, rehearsed it and also launched competitions and wrote prayers to read out. It is always nerve-wracking for children to stand up in front of their peers, but the team did an amazing job.

Year 6 – Visit from Engineers

Year 6 had an exciting visit from two engineers who work at Hampshire County Council and they facilitated a presentation to Eagle Class about the flooding issues Durley faces and then got the children to take part in a great activity on the field. This focused on the children being introduced to the notion of 'leaky dams' which is something the council are hoping to get built in different areas of Durley, in order to reduce the risk of flooding. The engineers have agreed to come back and do more work with our children which we are sure they'll love.



Cross County Event

Ms Alexander, Mrs Lubman and I (together with some parents) had the pleasure of taking a group of Year 5 and 6 children to a cross country competition being hosted by Swanmore College this week. Our children did amazingly well and although we did not make it through to the next stage of the competition, the children had a great time and did their best.

It was a long course to run and our pupils demonstrated great determination and enthusiasm. Well done to all those who took part and to the parents for your help and support at the event.

Fun Run

This was another great afternoon (albeit hot!) the children did brilliantly, despite the heat and raised over £1000 which will go towards our fantastic new reflection garden. Thank you to all of our Durley community for supporting both by cheering the children on and by contributing to the 'Go Fun Me' page. Our house captains and Sports' Leaders did a super job of warming the children up and cheering them on around the course.

Harvest Service

We are looking forward to seeing lots of you at our harvest celebration this afternoon. A big thank you for all your contributions which will go to the Kings Church, Hedge End Food Bank. The service starts at 2.30pm and should finish a little before the end of the school day. If you attend the service and would like to collect your child early, you are very welcome to. The DSA will be selling ice creams on the KS2 playground following the event and at 3:30pm.

Great Athlete Event

The children have been very excited this week to find out about the athlete who will be visiting our school on the afternoon of Friday 16th October. We are very much looking forward to gymnast, Kelly Sims coming to Durley and I know several eager children, who are budding gymnasts have spoken to me to say that Kelly trained at a local gymnastic club. I completely appreciate that we have not long had an event which asked for parental contributions – please accept my apologies for the timing of this next fundraiser. I will make sure that in future such things are more spread out.

Governors Update from Mr Kieran Brenchley (Chair)

Our Governors recently met for our first Full Governing Body meeting of the new school year. This is always a useful opportunity to look ahead at our priorities for the year, review how things are going and identify any areas where we need to focus our attention. Governor recruitment remains an important priority for us this year. We are looking to strengthen our Governing Body with new members from both parent and co-opted backgrounds.

So, what's the difference? A Parent Governor is, a parent who joins the Governing Body. Being a parent is the route into the role, but what we are really looking for is the skills, experience and knowledge that each person can bring. Co-opted Governors are members who join because they have particular skills or experience to share that can add to the Governing Body. They usually are not parents, they could be grandparents, family friends or people from the local community who feel they have something to offer.

So, what do Governors actually do? In simple terms, we provide support and challenge to the Headteacher and senior team, looking at things such as school performance, finances, safeguarding and the priorities for the school. We don't run the school, that's the job of the Headteacher and staff. We ask the questions, keep an eye on the bigger picture and help make sure the school continues to move in the right direction.

We are particularly keen to hear from people with a keen eye for numbers this year, as our Finance Committee would benefit from someone who enjoys looking at budgets, asking questions and making sure we are getting the best value from the resources available to the school. You don't need to be an accountant (but that would be great!), just someone who is comfortable with numbers and likes to understand how things work.

If you know someone who you think could bring something useful to the Governing Body, please encourage them to get in touch. You may have skills and experience that you don't realise could be really useful to the school.

A member of the Governing Body will also be at the upcoming Parents' Evenings. If you are curious about the role and want to know what being a Governor actually involves, including the time and commitment, please come and have a chat. Alternatively, speak to the school office and they can arrange for me to get in touch.

Parental Surveys

I have looked carefully at these and there are so many strengths and as always areas for development. Your views are so helpful in further developing our school. Results will be published soon.

We are looking forward to inviting you along to our first Parents Evening in a few weeks' time. Booking details will follow shortly.

Reminder

We have been working hard to ensure that we are complying with Benedict's Law which came into force in September. This is an extremely important law which dictates that we need to ensure we keep spare EpiPens and Ventolin Inhalers in school in case of an emergency whereby an unknown allergic reaction occurs resulting in Anaphylaxis. We already have pupils in school who carry their own EpiPens as a result of having serious allergies, so please can I remind you that we are a nut and banana free school. We are finding that some items in packed lunches are still being bought in that contain both nuts and banana. Please can I ask that you check ingredients on the packaging if you are unsure. This is especially relevant to smoothies, cereal and chocolate bars. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend,

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 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	Yr 3,4,5 Fishbourne Roman Palace trip
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
Friday 16 October	Athlete event
Tuesday 20 October	3:00-5:00pm Parents Evening
Thursday 22 October	4:00-7:00pm Parents Evening
Friday 23 October	3:30-5:00pm Whole school disco

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