



Dear Parents and Carers

We were very sorry to hear the sad news of the sudden loss of one of our parents last week. I know you will want to join me in offering the family condolences and that you will keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Last week, children in Red and Green classes were treated to a visit to Southampton to see and take part in a children's music concert. The children were treated to a full orchestra and magician. It was lovely to see the children so entranced by the music.



Congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 hockey players last week. They played against a number of teams in the local area and finished in first place winning all of their games except 1 which was a draw. Well done to the team!

Many congratulations to Miss Goddard and her partner on the birth of a beautiful baby girl last week. Both mother and baby are now at home and doing well. We all look forward to meeting baby Jasmine Faith in school very soon.

A quick reminder to you all that we have a rule that children should leave their toys at home to prevent any arguments or breakages. We have seen a few creeping in over the past few weeks!

### **Staffing**

I am sure that it will not come as any surprise to you that having led Durley Primary School since April 1999, I have made the difficult decision to retire at the end of this academic year and move on to pastures new.

I am immensely proud of our school and have been privileged to work alongside a superb team of dedicated and highly skilled staff over the years. I have also been immensely supported by a dedicated and highly professional Governing Body.

The School Association, parents, carers and our wider community have provided incredible support for which I remain extremely grateful. The highlight however, for me over the years has to be part of seeing our pupils develop and progress into

responsible young adults, which is a unique privilege for any Headteacher and one that has inspired and motivated me over the years.

The decision to announce my retirement early in the school year is to enable the Governing Body an extended period of time to be able to advertise and appoint my successor before September. I believe that Durley Primary School is on a superb footing, with secure foundations for the future, as it enters the next chapter in its long history.

I would like to assure you that for the coming two terms it will be business as usual and that we will continue with our normal hectic schedule of events!

### **Safeguarding Alert– Roblox**

I know that we have a number of children in the school, who love playing the online game Roblox which I know is great fun. I wanted to alert you to the fact that linked to Roblox is a



game called RoMeet which leads to children communicating via a burner text app (secret untraceable phone number by changing every few days) called TextMe. Both of these games are open platforms where your child would be matched with another random user and then targeted by individuals looking to groom children. Due to many parental concerns and a ban on the site in Turkey, Roblox has revamped parental controls and released new safety measures for users under the age of 13. I would encourage all parents of children using Roblox to create a separate account to control your child's account giving more options such as to limit screen time. Please ensure that your child has the correct set up as any users under 13 are not allowed to exchange private messages outside games and must have parental permission to do so.

### **Christingle**

Many thanks to those of you who joined us for our Christingle service last week. The children sang beautifully and very much enjoyed lighting their Christingle oranges with glow sticks. Thank you to those of you who returned the Christingle collecting boxes for the Children's Society, I will let you know how much we have raised from once it has been counted.

## Diary Dates

Please can I draw your attention to the date changes in the summer term for the afternoon performance of the KS2 school play (now the 9 July at 1:30pm) and the Y6 Wyvern College transition day (now the 8 July).

Kind regards,

*Kirstie Baines*

Kirstie Baines  
Headteacher

## IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS (School Closures) for academic year 2024-2025

Monday 2 June 2025  
Monday 21 July 2025  
Tuesday 22 July 2025

**Diary Dates for the 2024-2025 school year – all dates can be subject to change. All changes and new dates in the diary will appear in red.**

### Spring Term 2025

Tuesday 11 February	Safer Internet Day
<b>Wednesday 12 February</b>	<b>Visit from Fire Brigade for children in Years 1 and 5 (moved from 20 January)</b>
<b>17-21 February</b>	<b>Spring HALF TERM</b>
Tuesday 25 February	3:00pm-6:00pm Parent's Evening <b>YR-Y5</b>
Thursday 27 February	4:00pm-7:00pm Parent's Evening <b>YR-Y5</b>
Thursday 6 March	World Book Day
Thursday 6 March	5:30-6:30 Family Reading Night
Thursday 13 March	Y5/6 vocal festival in Thornden Hall
Friday 14 March	6:30-8:00pm KS2 outside disco
Thursday 20 March	5:00pm-6:15pm EYFS/KS1 Disco
Monday 24 March	2:30pm Music concert for KS2 pupils who have peripatetic music lessons
<b>Thursday 27 March</b>	<b>Red and Green classes visit to Winchester Cathedral and 878AD exhibition</b>
Friday 4 April	1:30pm Easter service in Holy Cross Church School ends at 3:30pm. No after school child care or clubs
<b>7 April – 21 April</b>	<b>Easter Holiday</b>

## Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 22 April	8:45am start of the Summer Term
22nd April - 9th May	Please complete the form to let us know you want to enter a bear into the Bear Hunt
Monday 5 May	School closed for Bank Holiday
12-15 May	Y6 SAT's testing week
Thursday 15 May	Y6 end of SAT's picnic and rounders
Monday 19 May	Whole school class photos
Friday 23 May	School Grounds morning
24th May - 21st June	The Bear Hunt is open! Best of luck finding all of the bears.

### 26-30 May

### Summer HALF TERM

Monday 2 June	In-Service training day for staff. SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 12 June	7:30-8:30 New Parents meeting
Wednesday 18 June	1:30pm Whole School Sports Day (parents and carers welcome)
Saturday 22 June	Holy Cross Church Summer Fete at Wintershill Hall, Durley
Friday 27 June	Non uniform day – sweets for sweet tombola
Monday 30 June	2:30pm - Music concert for KS2 pupils who have peripatetic music lessons
Wednesday 2 July	Non Uniform day – bottles for bottle stall
Thursday 3 July	Family Reading Night
Saturday 5 July	3:00-5:00pm School Summer Fayre
<b>Tuesday 8 July</b>	<b>Wyvern Transition Day for new intake – Children make their own way to Wyvern – DATE CHANGE</b>
<b>Wednesday 9 July</b>	<b>1:30pm KS2 School Play – DATE CHANGE</b>
9 and 10 July	6:00pm KS2 School Play
Thursday 10 July	Annual Reports to parents
Friday 11 July	Y6 to Portsmouth cathedral for morning workshops and afternoon leavers service.
Friday 18 July	Final day of term. 1:30pm Leavers' service in Holy Cross Church (no after school childcare club)

**Monday 21 July and Tuesday 22 July School closed for staff training**