



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back after the half term break! It is lovely to see the sunshine brightening up our playtimes and PE lessons.

Congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 Jag Tag team (a mixture of American Football and Tag Rugby) who competed against a number of other local schools just before the half term break. Despite the very cold weather, the team played brilliantly finishing overall in second place, losing narrowly in the final. This is definitely a new sport that we would be interested in taking up again next year.



As many of you will already know, we were delighted to hear of the news of the birth of Lyra Grace to Mr and Mrs Firth prior to the half term break. We send them warm wishes from us all and look forward to seeing Mr Firth back in school this week.

Ash Wednesday

Reverend Gregg will be joining us tomorrow for Ash Wednesday worship. As part of the worship Rev Gregg will be seeing the children in each class and offering, if they wish, they can have an ash cross drawn onto their forehead. The children can say if they do not want to take part, however if you do not want this to happen to your child, please could you let us know in the school office either by email or at drop off.

Family Reading Night – Thursday 6 March 5:30-6:30pm

A reminder that Family Reading night is this Thursday and everyone is welcome to join us. This Thursday is also World Book Day where the children will be undertaking some reading linked activities in school. It is a dress up day where children are being asked to wear **either pyjamas or dress as a character from a book** for the day – if your child does not wish to dress up, please can they come into school in school uniform.

Staffing

As you will be aware, Mrs Crowley will be leaving us at the end of this term after many years of work with the children in Blue class and across the school. She will be sorely missed by us all for her humour and care for the children as well as being a very supportive and inspirational member of staff. If you wish to contribute to Mrs Crowley's leaving present, please send money into the school office in a named envelop rather than to your child's class teacher.

The Governors and I have appointed experienced class teacher Miss Robyn Garrard to take over in Blue class after the Easter break. Miss Garrard will be visiting the class and getting to know the children this term.

Starting this Monday 10 March, Blue and Yellow classes will be joined by two Winchester University students to complete their teaching practice. We wish them the very best of luck and look forward to the addition to our staff team.

School Office

The school office is currently not always being manned due to staff absence however all answer phone messages and emails are being picked up. Please ensure you use the admin office email address for all emails – **adminoffice@durley.hants.sch.uk**

To alleviate the pressure on the school office, please could you ensure that we have at least **24 hours' notice** if you require your child to attend breakfast or after school club, or you no longer need the place.

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

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| Thursday 6 March | World Book Day - dress up in pyjamas, character from a book/school uniform |
| 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 |
| Monday 17 March | Y3, 4, 5 Viking dress up day |
| 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 |
| Thursday 27 March | Red and Green classes visit to Winchester Cathedral and 878AD exhibition |
| Friday 4 April | 1:30pm Easter service in Holy Cross Church School ends at 3:30pm. No after school child care or clubs |
| 7 April – 21 April | Easter Holiday |

Summer Term 2025

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| Tuesday 22 April 22nd April - 9th May | 8:45am start of the Summer Term Please complete a form to let us know you if want to enter a bear into the Bear Hunt – more details will follow nearer the time |
| Monday 5 May 12-15 May | School closed for Bank Holiday 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

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|-------------------------|---|
| 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 |
| Tuesday 8 July | Wyvern Transition Day for new intake – Children make their own way to Wyvern – DATE CHANGE |
| Wednesday 9 July | 1:30pm KS2 School Play – DATE CHANGE |
| 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