

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to Mrs Cook for organising a wonderful book week for us with many exciting activities to coincide with world book day. The children in Key Stage 2 gave up their playtimes across the week to create short drama productions of well-known fairy tales or myths with a twist which they performed in worship for the children in Key Stage 1. The children made costumes, designed the set, wrote the scripts and performed without any adult input. World book day was a chilled event with children in their pyjamas or dressed as character from a story, and many thanks to all of you who came along in the evening to family reading night.

An enormous thank you also to Mrs Cook who entered a competition with a national charity and was one of 12 schools across the country to win 100 books for their school library all of which are on themes of inclusivity.



Our thanks to Rev. Gregg for supporting us with worship for Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent. Gregg spoke to the children about the meaning of the palm crosses, and how the ashes from the previous years palm crosses are blessed are burnt and used to make crosses on the foreheads of people. He then went round to each class where many of our children and staff chose to have a cross marked on their forehead.



Well done to all of the children in Years 4 and 5 who took part in this years vocal festival in Thornden Hall. The theme this year was 'Into the Night Sky' and they were led by vocal coach Hannah Drury. It was hugely inspiring to see our children singing amongst a large choir of children of all ages.

Thank you to our DSA for organising two wonderful discos for the children. With the theme of 'Hollywood nights' the KS2 children really excelled and came along dressed up for the occasion. The children ate hotdogs, burgers and candyfloss during the interval and ended the fun evening with the conga and very noisy party blowers! The KS1 children had great fun with bubbles and glowsticks!

The next fundraiser by the team will be to fund the development of the final section of the school playground behind the PE sheds, making it into a quiet area for the children at Key Stage 2. This area will need re-fencing, resurfacing and seating to make it a calm section of the playground away from the hectic noise and children's games.

## Buddy Bag Cake Sale – Tuesday 25 March 2025

The School Council are hard at work at the moment organising a cake sale for the Buddy Bag LENT charity. A Buddy Bag is a backpack that contains all the essential items a child needs if it has to suddenly go into emergency care. The bag includes toiletries, pyjamas, socks and underwear, in addition to comfort items such as a book and a teddy bear. A Buddy Bag is something a child can call their own, no matter where they go. The bags are tailored to suit babies, children and young people according to age groups and gender. We hope you are able to support us with baking cakes and coming into school at the end of the day to spend on treats.



### Music Concerts

We have 2 music concerts coming up in the next fortnight. The children in Years 1 and 2 have a Listen2me recorder concert for parents/carers on **Thursday 3 April at 2:30pm**. For parents/carers of children at KS2 who are having peripatetic music lessons we have a concert on **Monday 24 March at 2:00pm (please note change of time)**. Both concerts will be in the school hall.

### School Governors

We are expecting some changes in the Governing Body over the coming months. Jo Birbeck is a co-opted Governor from the Durley Community and will be leaving the team at the end of this term. She has supported the work of the personnel and curriculum committees as well as the Headteacher Performance review over a number of years. Jo is going to be hugely missed by us all for her insight and expertise.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in supporting the school as a co-opted Governor please do not hesitate to contact me. Although the role can be taken up by a parent, it is always helpful to have Governors who have other strengths to give the Governing Body a balance of views. In the past this role has been taken up by grandparents or people within the community who are retired.

The Governing Body will also over the coming term have a vacancy for a parent Governor. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or any one of our present Governors for more information.

### Diary Dates

We are starting to put dates for next year into the school diary, which I will be adding to the bottom of each newsletter, so please keep an eye out for these. For children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) from September 2025, we have 2 dates for the residentials to Beaulieu and Little Canada on the Isle of Wight.

### Church Services in school

This year, our traditional Mother's Day church service in school is on **Sunday 30 March at 9:30am for 10:00am** start which is for everyone and a celebration of nurturing love of the family. Within the service the families on this special day will be given a gift of daffodils from Holy Cross Church. Please can you let us know if you are able to join us.

Please can you also diarise our special café church pet service which will be on **Sunday 27 April** in school. We look forward to seeing your pets (live or toy!) joining us.

### School Office

A reminder that 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**

<b>Monday 24 March</b>	<b>2:00pm Music concert for KS2 pupils who have peripatetic music lessons (Please note time change)</b>
Thursday 27 March	Red and Green classes visit to Winchester Cathedral and 878AD exhibition
<b>Thursday 27 March</b>	<b>3:30pm Donut Thursday on the school playground</b>
<b>Friday 28 March</b>	<b>am KS2 children to walk to church for rehearsal</b>
<b>Sunday 30 March</b>	<b>9:30 for 10:00am in school hall. Mothering Sunday service for everyone.</b>
<b>Thursday 3 April</b>	<b>2:30pm Recorder concert for parents with children in Year 1 and Year 2</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
<b>Sunday 27 April</b>	<b>9:30 for 10:00am start. Pet service – bring your pet along to join us in worship in the school hall.</b>
22nd April - 9th May	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	School closed for Bank Holiday
12-15 May	Y6 SAT's testing week
<b>Thursday 15 May</b>	<b>3:30-5:00pm Y6 end of SAT's picnic and rounders for Year 6 children.</b>

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 21 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**  
**1:30pm KS2 School Play – DATE CHANGE**  
**Wednesday 9 July 6:00pm KS2 School Play**  
9 and 10 July Annual Reports to parents  
Thursday 10 July Y6 to Portsmouth Cathedral for morning workshops and afternoon leavers service.  
Friday 11 July  
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**

### **Calendar Dates for 2025-2026**

### **IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS (School Closures) for academic year 2025-2026**

**Wednesday 3 September 2025**

**Monday 3 November 2025**

**Friday 5 December 2025**

**Monday 1 June 2026**

**Wednesday 22 July 2026**

### **Spring Term 2026**

**2-4 March 2026**

**9-13 March 2026**

**Year 3 and 4 residential trip to Home Farm, Beaulieu**

**Year 5 and 6 residential visit to Little Canada, Isle of Wight**