

Dear Parents and Carers

Congratulations to all of our pupils in Key Stage 2 for an incredible end of year performance of Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies last week. It was extremely funny, with some great acting, singing and dancing performances from our pupils. Many thanks to all of our staff involved in the production and to parents for helping out with costumes, learning words and to the Powell family for providing the fabulous backdrop.



This year we continued our very successful Battle of the Books for children in years 3 and 4 the winning team were the Awesome 6 who won by 1 point!. I am sure Mrs Cook would like to remind you all of the Library summer reading challenge, which for those of you struggling to get to the local library can complete it online.

This is the season of music exams. We congratulate 2 of our year 5 piano players who completed an introduction to Grades 1 both receiving a distinction.

Our overall school attendance this year has been at 97.1% an increase from last years 95% and higher than National attendance at 94.7%. We look forward to an even greater improvement in the coming year.

This week we are saying goodbye to Miss Bradley, class teacher from Yellow class as she goes on her world travels. She will be missed by us all. The children in Yellow Class have thrived under her guidance, and we know many families will join us in thanking her all she has given to the school over the past year.

As the school year ends and holidays approach, we say a fond farewell to our Year 6 leavers.



It is with sadness and pride, we wish them all the very best of luck as they prepare to move on to the next stage of their education. Our Year 6 leavers will be going off to Wyvern College, Deer Park, Boundary Oak, Swanmore Secondary School, Toynbee School, Yarrow Heights, Wildern School, The Westgate School, Kings School and King Edwards School in September.

They will be missed by us all.

We also say goodbye to the families who have had a long standing association with the school. We thank them for their tremendous support of Durley School over the years.

LUNCHES

If your child is starting in Year 3 in September, this unfortunately marks the end of the Universal Free School Meals scheme. If you think you might be eligible for income related free school meals please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Lunches will be charged at £3.20 per child, which will provide them with a varied and healthy selection of hot meals, salad, vegetables, homemade fresh bread and desserts. Can we please remind you that our school is a nut free and banana free environment so please ensure packed lunches are also nut and banana free.

SWIMMING LESSONS

Next term, we will be taking all of the children in Years 3 and 4 for weekly swimming lesson in Winchester commencing on Friday 19 September. The children will have 8 one hour lessons for a total price of £75 which can be paid in 2 parts (£40 before the half term break and £35 after the break. We will be sending out permission letters and a questionnaire at the start of term to help us to group the children by swimming ability.

GOVERNOR NEWS

This week we said goodbye and thanks to four of our long standing Governors. Gemma Parker and Nina Robinson have both had long standing association with the school on our curriculum committee. Chair of Governors Jenny Carkeet who has been seen us through two successful Ofsted inspections and to Jane Paul who has been linked to the school for nearly 30 years. We thank them for their service and wish them well for the future.

HEADTEACHER GOODBYE

As I prepare to retire from a job that I have loved, I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for the support, partnership, and trust over the years as well as the many presents and good wishes I have received.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve as Headteacher of this wonderful school. Working alongside such dedicated staff, delightful children, and supportive families has been a joy. Together, we've created a school community that I am deeply proud of — one rooted in kindness, ambition, and a shared commitment to giving every child the very best start in life.

Thank you for the many kind words, encouragement, and smiles along the way. I will take with me so many happy memories and will always hold this school and its community close to my heart.

I am pleased to be leaving you in the very safe hands of Mrs Grist, who I'm confident will lead the school with passion, care, and integrity.

TERM DATES

The school closes for the summer holiday period today Friday 18 July and will re-open on **Thursday 4 September 2025 at 8:45am**. Wednesday 3 September will be a staff training day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at Durley School for their commitment and care for your children over the year.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you all for the tremendous support once again this year, and for the many generous presents we have received. We wish you all a fun packed and safe holiday.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break,
Kind regards,

Kirstie Baines

Headteacher

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

Diary Dates for the 2025-2026 school year – all dates can be subject to change. All changes and new dates in the diary will appear in red.

Autumn Term 2025

Thursday 4 September	8:50am start of Autumn Term 2025
Friday 19 September	First Year 3 and 4 swimming lesson
Thursday 25 September	Whole School Nasal Flu spray
Tuesday 30 September	2:45pm Phonics meeting for parents of children in Year R
Thursday 2 October	9:15am Harvest festival in school – all welcome
Tuesday 7 October	OPEN DAY for prospective parents
Tuesday 14 October	2:45pm maths meeting for parents of pupils in Reception
Tuesday 21 October	3:00-5:00pm Parents Evening
Thursday 23 October	4:00-7:00pm Parents Evening

HALF TERM 27-31 October

Tuesday 11 November	10:45am Remembrance Service – all welcome
Thursday 20 November	Portrait photos in school – pre-school children welcome
Monday 1 December	School post Box Open for Christmas cards
Friday 5 December 2025	INSERVICE Training Day – No school for children
Wednesday 10 December	9:15am Blue and Yellow class Nativity play
Thursday 11 December	9:15am Blue and Yellow class Nativity play
Wednesday 17 December	pm Christmas parties
Thursday 18 December	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day for Children's society
Friday 19 December	1:30pm Christmas Carol Service in Holy Cross Church

Spring Term 2026

Thursday 8 January	Year 6 Bikeability
Thursday 8 January	3:40pm SATs meeting for parents of Y6 pupils in Green class
Friday 9 January	Y6 Bikeability
Friday 30 January	Christingle service in Holy Cross Church, Durley
Tuesday 10 February	Safer Internet Day

HALF TERM

16-20 February HALF TERM

2-4 March 2026

Thursday 5 March

9-13 March 2026

Friday 27 March

Year 3 and 4 residential trip to Home Farm, Beaulieu
World Book Day

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

1:30pm Easter service in Holy Cross Church, Durley.