



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 – 4th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your family had a lovely half term break, despite the somewhat changeable weather. It has been great to welcome our children back to school for what is one of my favourite half terms of the academic year.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

A huge thank you to everyone who found the time to put together a shoebox for this year's appeal. The children were so proud when they brought their shoebox to the school office and we were delighted to be able to donate to such a worthy cause.



Parent's Evenings

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to our recent Parent's Evenings and spend time chatting with you and your children at the front door. I know that the style of the evenings was different to what has happened previously and so as promised, I sent a Google Form out in order to evaluate parental responses. At the time of writing this newsletter, I have had 24 replies. The form will close at the end of the school day on this coming **Friday 7th**

November. The link is

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIIX4VCKv6FZ7h9Sk3Q6XwGTJUwBHwy2lmfOBZCrHvol_ipA/viewform?usp=header

INSET Day

On Monday, the staff undertook essential Safeguarding training at school which also included 'Prevent' training. Safeguarding our families is a key part of every member of staff's role and one we all take very seriously. In my time as a teacher, this part of my job has changed considerably and can be very difficult at times, but the children are at the heart of all we do.

A reminder that in school we have three Designated Safeguarding Leaders: myself, as Headteacher, Mr James Firth (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Jenny Dew (Green Class teacher). We are here to help – we know life can be tough and a problem shared is a problem halved. We might not have all the answers, but we might be able to signpost you to an organisation for support.

If you are unsure when the next Inset Days are, these are recorded on the calendar of events at the bottom of this newsletter.

Anti-Bullying Week

Next week, starting on **Monday 10th November**, as outlined in my previous newsletter, our school will be taking part in Anti-Bullying Week. The week will start with inviting children to wear odd socks on **Monday 10th** to celebrate and recognise diversity.



As part of this week, we would like to invite children to design an 'Anti-Bullying' poster. The winning posters will be laminated and displayed around the school. We have talked in worship and PSHE lessons about what constitutes bullying and have used the acronym

'STOP – Several Times on Purpose'. Your child might like to use this in their poster. *The competition is not compulsory but is open to all children.*

The poster should be no larger than A3 and should be bright, colourful and engaging.

Entries need to be brought into school by **Monday 10th November** and winners will be announced in Celebration Worship on **Friday 14th November**. If your child needs paper from school, please do ask.

Kindness Ambassadors

As part of the school's Anti-Bullying Week and in-line with our core Christian Values, we invited children from Year 6 to apply for the role of a Kindness Ambassador. Mr Firth and I were delighted to receive many applications which were all of a very high standard. After much deliberation, we are pleased to announce that nine of the year 6 applicants were successful.

They will work with both myself and Mr Firth over the coming year to promote our Core Christian Values and School Code of Conduct and support children at breaktime and lunchtime. A huge thank you to all the children who applied – it was very hard to choose from such a wealth of applicants.

Remembrance Service and Poppy Appeal

We will be holding a Remembrance Service on **Tuesday 11th November at 10.45am** to remember those that lost their lives in wars around the world. I am delighted to inform you that two of our talented Year 6 boys will play the 'Last Post'. I had the pleasure of hearing this in the final week of autumn 1 and they did amazingly well - you are very talented young boys!

If you would like to join us for this Service of Remembrance, you are very welcome. We will start the event in the school hall and then move to the memorial garden opposite the school for prayers and two minutes silence. Please arrive at the hall door for from 10.30am.



As always, we will be supporting this year's Poppy Appeal by selling poppies and other items on the playground at drop off and collection. This will start from tomorrow, Wednesday 5th so please bring your spare change.

Children in Need

We will also celebrate Children in Need on **Friday 14th November** and ask that children bring in a donation for this worthy cause. We will be making a line of coins and all proceeds will go to Children in Need. Children are invited to come in wearing non-school uniform, but please make sure that clothes are school appropriate. **Year 3 and 4 children need to bring in a school jumper or cardigan as they are going swimming.**



New Activity Clubs

From today, we are starting our new after school activity club with mixed football. GT Coaching have asked us to extend the invite to include Years 1 and 2 so if you would like your child to attend, please see the attached flyer for all the details. The Archery club which is now fully booked will start on Monday 10th November.



Reminder – We are a Nut Free School

As we start this half term, can I remind you that we do not allow any children to bring nuts into school, this includes products that may contain nuts as we currently have a number of pupils with a severe allergic reaction.



We are a Banana Free School

We also have a pupil with a severe banana allergy. As before, we will not be offering bananas as part of our fruit snack for EYFS/KS1 children and urge you to ensure bananas are not part of your child's packed lunch. Thank you for your support with this.

Best wishes,

Caroline Grist
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

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| Monday 10 November | Anti-Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day |
| Monday 10 November | Year 6 trip to D-Day Museum |
| Tuesday 11 November | 10:45am Remembrance Service – all welcome |
| Friday 14 November | FINAL Red class swimming |
| Friday 14 November | Children in Need – line of coins and non-uniform day |
| Thursday 20 November | Portrait photos in school – pre-school children welcome |
| Sunday 23 November | Stir up Sunday service in school from 9:30am |
| Friday 28 November | Non-uniform day in exchange for bottles for DSA Family Bingo Night |
| Monday 1 December | School post Box Open for Christmas cards |
| Wednesday 3 December | DSA 12 Days of Xmas daily raffle starts |
| Thursday 4 December | 5:00-7:00pm DSA Family Bingo Night |
| Friday 5 December 2025 | INSERVICE Training Day – No school for children |
| Wednesday 10 December | Village Carols at Memorial Hall – all welcome 5:00pm |
| Wednesday 10 December | 9:15am Blue and Yellow class Nativity play |
| Thursday 11 December | 9:15am Blue and Yellow class Nativity play |
| Monday 15 December | Holy Cross Church Angel Festival starts |
| Wednesday 17 December | pm Christmas parties |
| Thursday 18 December | Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day for Children's society |

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| Friday 19 December | 1:30pm Christmas Carol Service in Holy Cross Church |
| Friday 19 December | No after school childcare club |
| Sunday 21 December | Village Carol Service at Holy Cross Church – all welcome 3:30pm |

XMAS HOLIDAYS 22 December – 2 January

Spring Term 2026

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| Monday 5 January | Spring term starts |
| 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 | 1:30 Christingle service in Holy Cross Church, Durley |
| Tuesday 10 February | Safer Internet Day |

HALF TERM 16-20 February

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| Tuesday 24 February | 3:00-5:00pm Parents Evening |
| Thursday 26 February | 4:00-7:00pm Parents Evening |
| 2-4 March 2026 | Year 3 and 4 residential trip to Home Farm, Beaulieu |
| Thursday 5 March | World Book Day |
| 9-13 March 2026 | Year 5 and 6 residential visit to Little Canada, Isle of Wight |
| Thursday 12 March | Wyvern Cluster Vocal Festival |
| Sunday 22 March | Mothering Sunday Café Church in school |
| Monday 23 March | 2:30 Music concert |
| Friday 27 March | 1:30pm Easter service in Holy Cross Church, Durley. |
| Friday 27 March | No after school childcare club |

EASTER HOLIDAYS 30 March – 10 April