



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 1 – 10th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It seems a while since I have sent you a newsletter – this half term has flown by, although January seemed to go on for ages! I would like to start by thanking you all for your support with the recent flooding. It was a very difficult decision to make and I know how disruptive this is to you all. I was so touched by so many of you taking the time to thank me for the communication the school sent and also your encouragement. It really means a lot.

Staffing

Earlier in January, we said good-bye to Mrs Karen Emmett, a member of our lunchtime team. Mrs Emmett will be fondly missed and we wish her all the very best for her future.

Mrs Cook, our school librarian also continues her time away from school in order to be with her sister in the USA. Our thoughts are with Mrs Cook and her family at this time.

Christingle

Our school has been a hive of activity over the course of the spring term and it was lovely to

welcome so many of you to our recent Christingle Service. It was such a shame that the weather put a stop to the school going to the church but it was still such a lovely event. A special well-done goes to Year 6 – they led us beautifully in prayer and by reading a poem. Also, thank you to Rev Gregg for giving up his time to join us, even though he was feeling poorly.



Music Concert Visit

Green and Red Classes enjoyed a wonderful visit to Central Hall in Southampton, where they were entertained by a fantastic orchestra. They listened to an hour of beautiful music ranging from Tchaikovsky to Disney favourites.



Curriculum Update

Green and Red Classes have enjoyed making buddhas as part of their R.E work – I am sure you will agree that their finished pieces are amazing! I have also had the pleasure of teaching Green Class in English – they have been learning about volcanoes and as part of this doing some great oracy work, getting into role as characters from a story they have read.



Red Class have been busy doing some fantastic writing based on their topic of volcanoes and I have read some amazing work!

Yellow and Blue Class had a special visitor, one of our parents, Dr. Lock who came to show the children lots of dinosaur fossils. They absolutely loved seeing them and had the opportunity to sketch them after. Thank you Dr. Lock for giving up your time – it is much appreciated.



Kindness Ambassadors

The Kindness Ambassadors have been working really hard this half term and have been busy running lunchtime clubs, helping the younger children in the KS1 playground and have also led a recent worship. The ambassadors were awarded special named lanyards a couple of weeks ago so that they are easily identified and they have enjoyed decorating and personalising them.



Children's Mental Health Week

This week, we are celebrating Children's Mental Health Week and started raising awareness of this in Monday's worship. The theme this year is 'belonging' and we explored this as a school.



As part of encouraging children to feel good about themselves, the Kindness Ambassadors invite children to come in this **Friday 13th February in non-school uniform and/or with 'funky' hair**. This is also to remind children of the importance of valuing differences and links with our school values of respect and love. There is no need to bring in any monetary contribution. Please can I ask that clothes are suitable for school – e.g. no crop tops and that shoes are suitable for the playground. If your child normally has P.E on a Friday, they will still need to have their full PE kit in school.

Amazing Children

I have had the pleasure of seeing so many of our pupils for their amazing work. A huge well done to the children in Year 5 for their music composition. There has been some great learning of high frequency words, and some amazing writing. X-Club badges along with bronze, silver and gold Dojo badges have been well earned and awarded. We are super proud of them all 😊

Parents Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming you on either **Tuesday 10th February 3-6pm** or **Wednesday 11th February 4-7pm**.

As was outlined in my last newsletter, appointments will be held in the school hall.

School Council

The School Council will be holding a bake sale to raise funds for new essential learning equipment such as directional compasses, measuring jugs, mirrors for sciences and maths and more. We are asking for individual cake contributions to be brought in on Thursday morning with the sale taking place in the hall **Thursday, 12 February at 3:30**.

DSA News

The DSA are busy putting together a list of fun fundraising events to take us up to the end of the Summer term. This includes quiz and bingo nights, disco, the return of the ever popular bear hunt and summer fayre to name but a few. Please see the diary dates for the full list. They have also organized a **Bags2School visit on Tuesday 3rd March**. We appreciate some of your children will be on the Beaulieu residential, however please feel free to still drop bags off either beforehand or on the day. Collections will be accepted up until 9:30am at the latest. As always, we are extremely grateful for the work done by the DSA. If you would like to join the team, the AGM will be held in the next few weeks – date to be confirmed.

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies

Reminder to year 6 parents that the deadline for all orders for a leavers hoodie is Monday 16 February. Unfortunately, any late orders will not be processed by the provider. Please speak to the office if you have any questions.

Mini Renovations

As outlined in my last newsletter, we are keen to facilitate some mini-renovations in our school. We have had lots of parents volunteer, which is lovely. We are planning to start these on **Monday 16th February (half term)** If you have already expressed an interest in helping, I have sent you an email. Please do confirm whether you can spare some time on either the Monday or Tuesday of half term.



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.

Have a lovely rest of your week and a great half term. Let's hope the sun shines!

Best wishes,

Caroline Grist
Headteacher

Calendar Dates for 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**.

Spring Term 2026

Tuesday 10 February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 10 February	Yr 6 height & weight. Yr R height, weight & vision checks
Tuesday 10 February	3:00-6:00pm Parents evening
Wednesday 11 February	4:00-7:00pm Parents evening
Thursday 12 February	3:30 School Council bake sale in hall
Friday 13 February	Non-uniform and/or funky hair day to celebrate diversity

HALF TERM 16-20 February

2-4 March 2026	Year 3 and 4 residential trip to Home Farm, Beaulieu
Tuesday 3 March	DSA Bags2School. Bags to be dropped by 9:30am
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
Friday 20 March	6:00-8:00pm DSA Easter themed quiz night and film
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

Summer Term 2026

Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday
11-14 May	Year 6 SATs
Dates throughout May tbc	DSA Durley Bear Hunt
18-22 May	Walk to School week
Monday 18 May	Whole school, year groups and year 6 photos
Thursday 21 May	DSA Discos (KS1 3:45-5:00. KS2 5:15-6:45)

HALF TERM 25-29 May

Monday 1 June	Inset day
Thursday 11 June	7:30-8:30 New Year R parents meeting
Tuesday 16 June	9:30-10:30 New Year R session 1

Wednesday 17 June 13:30 Sports Day
Friday 19 June DSA Bingo night and film
Tuesday 23 June 9:30-10:30 New Year R session 2
Wednesday 24 June 14:15 Summer music concert
Thursday 25 June 5:30-6:30 Summer family reading night
Tuesday 30 June 9:30-10.30 New Year R session 3

Friday 3 July Year 6 Leavers Services Portsmouth Cathedral
Friday 3 July 4:00-7:30 DSA Summer Fayre
Monday 6 July KS2 production dress rehearsal
Tuesday 7 July 6:00 KS2 production
Wednesday 8 July 1:30 KS2 production
Thursday 9 July 6:00 KS2 production
Tuesday 21 July 13:30 Year 6 leavers service Holy Cross Church
Tuesday 21 July No after school childcare club
Wednesday 22 July Inset day

SUMMER HOLIDAYS