



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 1– 17th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been lovely to welcome you all back this week after the Easter break. I really hope that you and your family had a good Easter and managed to have a bit of a rest. It has been great to hear the school buzzing this week; the children have certainly made a great start to the new term.

Staffing Update

We have two new members of staff joining us at Durley and I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to our school community. Miss Heidi Mitchell has begun her role as full-time lunchtime supervisor and is settling in well.

Mrs Jackie Willis joins us as a Teaching Assistant and will be working three days per week providing additional support across the school. She will be predominantly in Green Class but will also help with the teaching of small phonics groups in Blue and Yellow Classes.

We have also welcomed back Mrs Marcia Cook, our fantastic librarian who returns to school after some time away in the USA.

Finally, we welcomed two trainee teachers, Miss Kaycie-Mai Swift and Miss Maddie Thompson during the latter part of the spring term. They have started their teaching placements in both Blue and Yellow Classes. We will also have three further Winchester University students starting their second year placements in KS2 at the end of April.

New Lunchtime Arrangements

I have been working hard with the staff team to plan and implement new arrangements for lunchtimes at our school. These started on Monday and seem to have gone down well with pupils and staff alike. Blue and Yellow Class lunchtimes now run from 12 midday to 1pm and they go straight to the hall to eat first, before going onto the playground after.

Key Stage 2 lunchtime is as it was before, from 12.15-1.15pm, with the main change being that the classes go onto the playground and have some additional time playing, before they are called in for their lunch.

This has meant that the children are queuing less to eat, they are getting more time to play and the hall is not as busy.

We hope soon that we will be able to utilise the field and this will provide the children with more space to play. Hopefully, the weather continues to be kind to us!

School Therapy Dog

I am so excited to let you know that we have been busy putting plans in place for Mrs Abraham's dog, Willow, to become our school dog. As I am sure many of you are aware, animals can have many beneficial effects for adults and children alike and we would like to provide this opportunity for our pupils at Durley. Robust risk assessments and plans are being implemented and Mrs Abraham will be talking to the children about Willow in a special assembly.

Obviously, we fully appreciate that there might be some children who might have allergies to dogs or might be scared of them. ***If this applies to your child, please do let the school***



office know by emailing adminoffice@durley.hants.sch.uk. We will, of course, seek permission from parents of children who will be working with Willow in due course.

Flooding Prevention update

We have been working hard with Hampshire County Council to reduce the risk of our school flooding and works are in progress. You will have noticed the raised wall outside the hall – new flood barriers are planned for the top of the slope going into the hall, as well as new outer hall doors.

The culvert under the road was cleared of debris just before Easter, which we also hope will help matters and ‘leaky dams’ are going to be installed in key areas in the fields at some point during the summer.

Finally, all of our flood barriers will be serviced by Hampshire to ensure that they are as effective as possible. Both the Governing Body and I continue to work tirelessly to raise the profile of the issues the school and indeed the village of Durley continues to face flood-wise.

DSA

A huge thank you to the DSA for all their hard work in organising the fantastic quiz night last term. This was such a great evening and enjoyed by lots of our families. It wasn't quite as busy as the bingo evening in the autumn term but we think perhaps it was just such a busy time of year for everyone.

The committee are busy planning lots of other events, so please look out for details of these which will follow very soon.

The DSA continue to be a huge support to our school and work so hard to raise much needed monies! They have funded a PSHE workshop for our pupils from Yellow and Blue Classes, as well as some additional books for Year 6 and other resources the school has requested.

Lenten Fundraising

Thank you so very much to all of the children who kindly took part in their Lenten challenges in aid of the cricket foundation. I am delighted to let you know that our school has raised almost a £1000! This is an amazing achievement, and it has been wonderful to hear about all the imaginative ways money has been raised – from ice-cold baths, to DIY - our children really have gone above and beyond. Thank you very much for your support in this, as I know the children could not do these things without you!

Year 4 Times table Challenge

Our children in Year 4 were set an Easter Times table Challenge by Mrs May and Mrs Dew and did amazingly well. I am delighted to let you know that we had some great scores with 11,164 being first place, 8,164 second and 6,862 third. We also had a further 14 pupils take part. Well done to you all.

School Grounds Day

Following the success of last year, the annual School Grounds Day will be held on **Friday 22nd May**. We are planning lots of projects, so if you are able to spare any time, please keep this date free. We will be in touch nearer the time to provide information about the items the school needs and equipment to bring on the day.

On the Grounds Day, current thoughts are that we are seeking to:

- Update the fencing that separates the upper and lower school playground
- Plant up the raised beds outside Red and Green Classes
- Re-vamp the outdoor area in Blue and Yellow Class
- Fix fencing

- Build storage for playground equipment

Amazon Wishlist

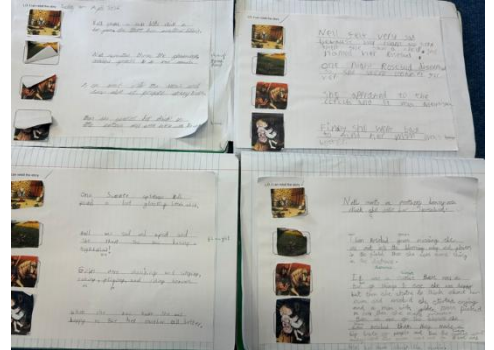
We are always so grateful for the support we get for our school, especially from the DSA, but following a recent governor's meeting, we have put together an Amazon wish list. If you feel able to purchase any items on the wish list, it would be much appreciated.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/339QENBXEGO20%3Fref=wl_dp_view_your_list?

Amazing Children

Special well done to those who gained a Headteacher's Awards for super progress and effort in phonics, topic writing, history and fundraising – all amazing achievements. Silver Dojo badges have been awarded to 19 pupils along with 5 gold.

Really well done to all these fantastic pupils!



Parking, drop-off and collection

Despite several letters and emails to our parent community, we are still continuing to see some very unsafe parking and driving at drop-off and pick-up. Please DO NOT park in the bus stops outside the school or dangerously along Durley Brook Road. This was particularly apparent when we walked the children to the church for Easter and was commented on by governors and parents alike.

We are still seeing parents turning their cars around on the main road, directly outside of school – this is so dangerous and is an accident waiting to happen. I would ask you to pass this information on to grandparents and other family members as well. Please use the memorial hall as an alternative – thank you for your support with this.

Can I also remind you that children/siblings should not be playing on the play equipment at end of the day. Many thanks.

Re-decoration

As you know, in February half term, the children's toilets were re-decorated and look so much fresher and brighter. Our next project will be the staff toilets. We are also seeking to 'skim' the walls of the staff toilets. Are you a plasterer who would be willing to do this? If you are, do let us know!

Wishing you all a pleasant and restful weekend.

Warm 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.**

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)
Friday 22 May	School grounds day

HALF TERM 25-29 May

Monday 1 June	Inset day
Wednesday 10 June	14:15 Summer music concert (DATE CHANGE)
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
Tuesday 23 June	9:30-10:30 New Year R session 2
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 23 July to 31 August 2026