



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 1– 30th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy time we have had in school since my last newsletter. It has been great to see the sunshine and the children have enjoyed this too. Hopefully we can start going on the field soon. On Sunday, we held 'Café Church' in the hall, thank you to members of the church community for all your hard work in organising this event. It was such a shame that we didn't have any of our Durley families attend on Sunday, but I think with the weather being so lovely, I am sure you were all outside enjoying the sun!

Link with Currys Hedge End

Last Friday, I was lucky enough to meet with Darren Lidgard, the Business Customer Manager at the Currys' Community Hub. He contacted our school and Currys have kindly donated some fantastic prizes for our summer fayre. They have also offered to support in helping at our school grounds morning – thank you so much for this!



Cracking Cricket



Some of our Year 5/6 boys represented our school superbly at the cluster cricket event on Tuesday 28th April at Lapstone Park. They competed in two games losing one and winning one and showed fantastic sportsmanship throughout. Thank you as always to all the adults who assisted in getting the children to and from the venue. Huge thanks also goes to Mr Firth, who gave up his time to

accompany our boys to this event.

DSA Events

We are approaching a busy time of year with some exciting events which are being organized by the school's DSA. Both KS1 and KS2 school discos are on Thursday 21st May. We also have our summer fayre planned on Friday 3rd July between 4:00-8:00pm. There will be inflatables, a bar, BBQ and lots more! Watch this space for more details.

Please remember all dates for events over the Summer term can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

Bishops Waltham Rotary

I am delighted to let you know that our school has secured some help from Bishops Waltham Rotary. Due to the flooding, many of our resources in our lower school playground

have been damaged or destroyed and the rotary have kindly offered to help to replace these.

It was purely by chance that help was offered following a Facebook post by Mrs Clegg, a member of our teaching assistant team, who was on the look out for some additional resources.

Debbie, from the Rotary, saw the post and came to meet with Mrs Clegg, and offered their help. Huge thank you to Mrs Clegg for her help in organising this.

We are so lucky to have our fantastic DSA, but their funds only go so far and therefore, as a small school, we have to be creative. This will mean that the DSA financial support can be spent on bigger projects which will benefit our children.

Staffing Update

We are delighted to have Mrs Cook back in the library, after her extended time in the USA. I am also excited to let you know that Mrs Cook officially became a British citizen this week and attended an official ceremony on Tuesday. Congratulations to Mrs Cook!

We have welcomed two trainee teachers to our staff this week: Mr William Butterwick (who has joined Green Class) and Miss Eleanor Webb (who is working in Purple Class). Both student teachers are settling in well – please do say hello if you see them at drop-off or pick-up.

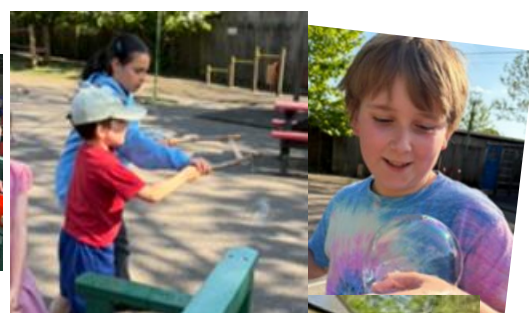
School Therapy Dog

We are excited to let you know that Willow, our school therapy dog will have her first visit into our school this coming Friday. Mrs Abraham and I have been very busy ensuring that robust systems and risk assessments have been implemented before she starts properly as a member of our Durley team. She will be meeting the children she is due to work with and Mrs Abraham also plans to take her to each class – please rest assured that no child will be made to interact with Willow – we are very mindful of this.



After-School Club Fun

It is always lovely to see children having fun in the sun and this week, at after school club, was no exception. Children enjoyed fun with bubbles – photos were taken by Mrs Cook.



Flooding Prevention update

As you will have noticed, we are now the proud owners of new hall doors – sadly their installation was not without hitches, but we are finally seeing some progress. We are due to have the flood barriers serviced later in May and a new flood defence installed outside the hall. I will keep you updated as work gets done.



Amazing Children

I continue to see some brilliant work being done which results in awards and recognition. I'm delighted to inform you that three Headteacher Awards have been given to pupils in Blue and Yellow classes, Year R have also been doing some amazing independent number sentences and we continue to award many Silver and Gold Dojo badges for those who have reached their targets. Four KS2 pupils have also gained their X-Club badges. Well done to you all, keep up the excellent work.

Uniform and Clothing

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform, including footwear when they come to school to ensure our high standards are maintained. I would also like to encourage the girls to wear cycling shorts under their dresses whenever possible as they are often on the play equipment, hanging upside down which can lead to exposed undergarments.

London Marathon Success

Huge congratulations to parent and Governor, Rob Pfeiffer who completed the London marathon on Sunday. He completed the run in a fantastic 4 hours and 9 minutes and has raised almost £3,000 for the Chance to Shine Cricket Foundation. Mr Pfeiffer is extremely grateful for the fundraising in school and to everyone who has donated. Really well done to you Rob!



Durley Church Fete

The annual Durley Church Fete will take place on Saturday 20th June, 12:30 to 3:30pm at Wintershill Hall. This is always a lovely afternoon with lots of stalls and activities such as BBQ, fun dog show, a silent auction to name but a few. As we have such a close relationship with the Holy Cross Church it would be lovely to see many of you there. Please see the attached flyer with full details.

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
- Create a reflection area
- Fix fencing
- Build storage for playground equipment

This will be a non-uniform day, however please can we ask that appropriate clothing and footwear is worn to ensure that children can take part safely – they may get messy!

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. The items are going to help re-vamp the staff toilets, provide some additional equipment for our younger pupils, some items for classrooms and the outside. If you feel able to purchase any items on the wish list, it would be much appreciated. <https://amzn.eu/0hROnK00>

Help needed

I am still keen to get the walls skimmed in the staff toilets to make them brighter, lighter and a nicer space. I would also like to get the pipes boxed in and seek to source new tiles and basins, as the ones we have currently are so tired.

If you feel able to help – please do get in touch.

We are also looking to re-decorate some areas of our school and having approached Hampshire County Council, they are not able to provide funds for this. With falling birth rates in the local area, I am conscious of ensuring our school is as attractive and appealing as it can be. If you can spare any time, please do let us know.

Some Sad News

Unfortunately, the school has received the sad news that one of its previous Governors, Clive Frost has sadly passed away. I am sure many of you will remember him with fondness as he was a school Governor for many years and lived in the village. He was a staunch supporter of the school and he was instrumental in setting up our school website many years ago. He remained a good friend of our previous Headteacher, Mrs Baines. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Have a great bank holiday weekend and let's hope this recent warm weather continues.

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
Friday 14 May	15:30-17:00 Year 6 End of SATs rounders
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

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
Saturday 20 June	12:30-3:30 Durley Church Fete, Wintershill Hall
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