



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 1 – 21st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I cannot believe that the first summer term is nearly over – it really has flown by and has been a lovely half term. A huge thank you for your immense generosity in supporting our Amazon wish list; it really is appreciated. From a scooter and artificial plants to playground storage and glue sticks – you really have gone over and above. Thank you so much! We are also very much looking forward to our DSA events – we have the disco this evening and then the summer fayre later in the term, which I know these will both be great events. The DSA have recently agreed to help fund the reflection garden which we will start to clear on grounds morning – this will be such a calm and quiet area which children can access at different times of the day.

Year 6 SATs

A huge well done to all of Year 6 for their incredible, hard work and determination when they undertook their SATs tests last week. I was lucky enough to help facilitate these tests and the children did amazingly well. They approached the tests with resilience and maturity and I am immensely proud of each and every one of the children in Purple Class. Thanks goes to Mr Firth for all the work he has done in helping prepare the children for their SATs and also to all of our staff for their support.



Gymnastics Success

Many congratulations to our wonderful gymnasts for their achievements in a recent Gymnastics competition. What a talented bunch they are!

Congratulations also goes to one of our Year 3 boys, who recently competed in a national gymnastics competition in Ipswich. He was up against 70 of the best gymnasts in the country and did brilliantly. Well done!



New Class Names – September 2026

There has been much excitement and suspense at Durley as the children have had the opportunity to vote for the new class names from September. I am delighted to announce the following names have been chosen:

Blue Class = Otter Class
Yellow Class = Rabbit Class
Red Class = Fox Class
Green Class = Hedgehog Class
Purple Class = Eagle Class

We would like to run a competition inviting children to design a sign for the classroom doors which will be professionally framed. Please ask your child to draw their chosen animal and class name and hand into the office or their teacher by Tuesday 2nd June. Please ensure their name is on the back. We will announce the winners later on that week. Good luck!

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Team

I will be inviting children from Years 4 and 5 to apply for the role in the GIFT team in readiness for September. The team will help to plan and lead collective worships (both class and whole school) as well as organise and run charity events. Children will be asked to complete an application form in order to apply. These will be handed out in class after half term.



School Grounds Day

We are very much looking forward to our Grounds Morning tomorrow. Thank you to those who have offered to help – it is much appreciated. I have sent out details of donations that are needed, so please do check recent correspondence. Our main priorities will be clearing and tidying up the area next to the hall, painting the fence between the lower and upper school playgrounds and clearing the pond. We are in need of pots (similar in size to the ones in Blue and Yellow Class playgrounds) and also decorations (e.g. butterflies) as I outlined in previous letters. Do check these for more details.



Amazing Children

Once again, I have had the pleasure of seeing a great deal of good work going on around the school. Headteachers awards have been given out for excellent writing and topic work and we continue to see Dojo's awarded daily resulting in lots of children receiving their silver and gold badges. Keep up the good work!



A Reminder

Sadly, we have had yet another email complaining about the unsafe driving and parking of some of our parents. Despite asking in the newsletter on lots of occasions and also speaking to a number of parents individually, I continue to see parents parking in the bus stops, doing three-point turns on Durley Brook Road and driving unsafely and without due consideration. This time, the complaint was from a resident who regularly rides her horse by our school. She has contacted us raising concerns about the lack of care and respect given to her when she was riding along Durley Brook Road recently. We have also had another complaint from a bus driver who was not able to drop students off



due to cars parking in the bus lane. Please can I urge you to be considerate and use the Memorial Hall. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Appointments

We are seeing an increasing number of children being taken out of school for appointments. We fully appreciate that emergencies happen and that it is not always easy to get appointments outside of school hours or in the holidays, however we ask that wherever possible, appointments in school time are kept to a minimum and if practicable, that your child is brought back into school afterwards.

Wishing you all a restful (and hopefully sunny!) half term,

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.

Summer Term 2026

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