



Durley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 2– 19th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been such a busy few weeks since half term; please accept my apologies for only sending a newsletter this week. It was fantastic to see so many of you at our Sports Day – it really was such a lovely (albeit chaotic) afternoon. I am so pleased we were able to facilitate the races – it was great to see the children participate in these, as well as the parents' and the staff race. Thank you to the DSA for providing some cold drinks – they were well needed! The overall winner of Sports Day 2026 - by one point was..... [Blue Team!](#)

Staffing 2026-27

I know there has been much discussion among our parent community (and the children!) around staffing for next year and as I outlined on Class Do-jo, I am pleased to share the classes for next year. Arranging staffing is never an easy task and is rather like a jigsaw puzzle, in the way there are so many elements to piece together and weigh up. I appreciate that the decisions made might not be what you had hoped for, but please do trust in our professional judgement. Any decision involving staffing is never made lightly and is always carefully and thoroughly considered.

Firstly, I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed a new class teacher for next year, Mrs Esther Lubman. She was a very strong candidate and the recruitment panel were unanimous in their decision to offer her the position. I have no doubt our Durley community will make her feel welcome.

In addition, Mrs Rachel Hadley will be increasing her days in school from September. She currently job-shares with Mrs May. From September, Mrs Hadley will teach an additional half day in Year 3/4 as well as the Friday she currently works.

Class	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
Otter Class (Blue Class)	Miss Robyn Garrard	Mrs Kelly Cook
Rabbit Class (Yellow Class)	Ms Melanie Alexander	Miss Emelia Newmarch (Monday and Friday) Mrs Karen Clegg (Tuesday – Thursday)
Fox Class (Red Class)	Mrs Joanna May (Monday a.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) Mrs Rachel Hadley (Monday p.m. and Friday all day)	Mrs Becky McNicholas-George Mrs Jade Sims
Hedgehog Class (Green Class)	Mrs Esther Lubman	Mrs Amy Abraham Miss Kerry-Ann Humphries
Eagle Class (Purple Class)	Mrs Jenny Dew	Miss Emily Ridout

Children will spend time with their new class teacher during the morning of Tuesday 30th June and will take part in some great activities in readiness for September. We are looking forward to this very much!

New Class Name Sign Competition

Following the recent competition, I am delighted to announce the winners of this competition. We had so many fantastic entries and I asked Mrs Pink and Mrs Maitland to be our judges. Winners were shared in Celebration Worship last Friday.

Mrs Pink and Mrs Maitland were so impressed with all the pictures that they have asked if the remaining entries could be put in a picture frame and hung in the office!

Year 4 Multiplication Tests

Many congratulations to our Year 4 children who took part in their multiplication test check. This is a test arranged by the government and consists of 25 times tables questions and the pass mark is 25/25! Children have the grand total of 6 seconds to complete each question so you can imagine how tricky this is. The Year 4 children did amazingly and have worked so hard. We will be able to share the results soon. A huge thank you to the Year 4 staff for all of their hard work in all of this.

Phonics Screening Tests

A huge well done to our amazing pupils in Year 1 who have taken part in their phonics tests which are facilitated by the Department for Education. Phonics and early reading form the foundations for a child's school life and reading is the key to so much. Our children smashed it and did brilliantly! A massive thank you to staff from Blue and Yellow Class for all their hard work in the teaching of phonics. Well done everyone!

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Team

I will be inviting children from Years 4 and 5 to apply for a 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 next week.



School Grounds Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who gave up their time at our recent Grounds Morning – it seems like a lifetime ago but it was such an amazing event! We got SO much achieved and I am sure you will agree that the grounds are looking amazing. A big thank you to the group of Dads who cleared what will be the new reflection area – this was a task in itself! Fences were painted, benches were revamped, playground storage was built and thanks to the community team at Currys, the pond was cleared. Special thanks also goes to one of blue class pupil's Grandad who cleared the bushes and vegetation around the pond. He did an amazing job!

Amazing Children

My office has seen a flurry of children sharing some outstanding work. This is a part of my job I love! We have seen some amazing writing from a number of children in KS1 and we have also given out 8 Silver and 2 Gold Dojo badges since the last newsletter. Well done to you all.

Summer Fayre Friday 3rd July 4:00 – 7:30pm

Our summer fayre is fast approaching and we need your help! The DSA are working incredibly hard to ensure this event is a success and it promises to be a great evening. I know they are in need of volunteers to help run stalls – these events raise vital funds for Durley School, which in turn help your children. If you can spare any time, no matter how small, please do let the office team or a member of the DSA know. Between now and 3rd July we will be holding two non uniform days in exchange for sweets and bottles. The first will be on 26 June (sweets) the second 3rd July (bottles). We appreciate that Year 6 are attending their leavers service at Portsmouth Cathedral on this day, so they will need to be in full school uniform.

Plea to Parents

Please can we ask parents/grandparents to keep a close eye on their toddlers when dropping off and collecting. We see a lot of small children running and heading straight for the play equipment mainly in the KS1 playground meaning that they are mostly unsupervised and therefore at risk of hurting themselves. Also specific equipment is sometimes put out for pupils first thing in the morning so this needs to be left alone. Many thanks.

Wishing you all a great weekend – let's hope the sun continues to shine!

Best wishes,

Caroline Grist
Headteacher

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

Tuesday 23 June	9:30-10:30 New Year R session 2
Thursday 25 June	5:30-6:30 Summer family reading night
Friday 26 June	Non-uniform day (in exchange for sweets for tombola)
Tuesday 30 June	9:30-10.30 New Year R session 3
Friday 3 July	Non-uniform day (in exchange for bottles for tombola)
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

IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS (School Closures) for academic year 2026-2027

Tuesday 1 September 2026

Monday 30 November 2026

Friday 12 February 2027

Thursday 25 March 2027

Monday 28 June 2027