



Dear Parents and Carers

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back after the Christmas break and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope the children have all managed to have a fun filled restful break and feel ready for another exciting term ahead. Thank you from myself and the staff for the extremely generous gifts and cards at the end of last term which were hugely appreciated.

The children in Yellow and Blue classes had a wonderful pirate day on Wednesday as a hook to this half terms Pirate topic . The children looked fantastic in their pirate outfits and had fun walking the plank, being put in the stocks and playing pirate games! Thank you to the DSA for funding this exciting event.



Thank you for your support as we have returned to our Covid safety measures this week. I am relieved to hear that families and particularly children catching the virus have been showing mild symptoms. It is particularly important, due to the self-isolation instructions in place that the virus is not passed onto staff, enabling us all to remain in school.

Staffing

Mrs Fealy will not be in school this term due to an ongoing illness. We all send her our good wishes and look forward to seeing her back with us in the summer term. Mrs Fealy teaches in classes across the school as well as being class teacher for two days a week in Yellow class. I have been interviewing teachers this week, and look forward to welcoming a new member of staff to our team shortly.

This week we welcomed two new teaching assistants to our staff team - Miss Libby Goodall with red class and Mrs Chloe Lawrence with Green class.

Attendance

I recognise the difficulties that families have had over the past two years with booking holidays and cancellations due to Covid however it is vital that children do not miss the school days that are available to them. Staff are working extremely hard to ensure there are not any gaps from time missed from face to face teaching. Please can you ensure that your child is in school unless there are exceptional circumstances. The school strictly follows Government guidance which states that a family holiday is not considered an exceptional circumstance. 5 days (10 sessions) of unauthorised absence

will lead to a fixed penalty notice fine. Any unpaid fines or two penalty notices within 100 days could lead to legal action which can cost thousands of pounds and a criminal record.

Reminders

Please remember to send in your child's full PE kit each week. In the current cold weather children may wear dark coloured (blue or black) tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE lessons.

Please could children have a water bottle in school each day containing plain water only.

Finally, trainers for everyday wear are not part of our Durley School uniform. I would be most grateful if you could ensure your child is wearing proper school shoes.

Diary Dates for the Spring Term

Friday 4 February	Christingle service in Church for children only
Tuesday 8 February	Safer internet day
Tuesday 15 February	3:00-6:00pm Parents evening Years R-6
Thursday 17 February	4:00-7:00pm Parents evening Years R-6
21-25 February	Half Term
Monday 28 February	Blue and Yellow Class visit to Living Rainforest
Thursday 3 March	World Book Day and author visit, Michael O'Leary
Tuesday 15 March	PSHE lessons from SCARF for Years R,1,2 and 6

With kind regards

Kirstie Baines

Headteacher