

21 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to slowly welcome more and more children back to school over the past few weeks as we have extended our groups into spaces around the school and spread out the staff. Over the past week, there has been a feeling of excitement around the school as our year 6 children have been preparing to leave us after 7 years of being part of Durley Primary School. I am very grateful to you all for the tremendous support with our new routines this term and how quickly your children have adapted to it all from eating in the classrooms, playing in zoned areas, Year 6 having lessons in the school hall, and many more changes. An enormous thank you to everyone for all the hard work making the return to school such a positive experience!

Goodbyes



Sadly this week we have been saying our goodbyes and good wishes as our Year 6's move on to new challenges and adventures. Year 6 will be hugely missed by us all, as they have been a wonderful year group who have contributed so much to our school in terms of music, sport, friendship and enthusiasm. We were delighted to see the whole Year 6 team back in school for the final weeks of this term and for them all to be able to participate in our Friday night leavers BBQ, rounders and bonfire on the school field, which replaced the traditional leavers' trip. Mr Male and I have been very impressed with how sensible the children have been – no moans of what they have missed this term and making the most of the time they have had together. We wish all of our Year 6's the best of luck in September.

September 2020

We are all looking forward to a new school year and a fresh start in September. The school (without the new Reception pupils who will start later in the week) will return on **Monday 7 September**. I am sure the children will quickly acclimatise in returning to school, being with their friends and meeting their new teachers before the hard work begins.

I am hesitant to make too many arrangements before September, as we know things can change very quickly. The DfE guidance mentions class bubbles for primary age children; however, we know that larger schools are having year group bubbles of up to five classes and secondary schools have bubbles of up to 300 pupils. It would make a big difference to us and the children if we were able to organise Key Stage bubbles enabling children to play with their friends in other classes and eat in two sittings in the school hall. I am keen to wait and see to what extent the virus is declining before finalising these organisational arrangements.

The Governors and I will be keeping a close eye on the DfE website and I will write to you all in late August outlining the finer details of the children's return to school.

The drop off and pickups in September will be as follows to prevent congestion and support social distancing:

Child's surname starting A-H

*Drop off: 8:45 – 9:00am *Collection: 3:00-3:15pm

Child's surname starting I-Z

*Drop off: 9:00- 9:15am *Collection: 3:15-3:30pm

We have been trialling allowing parents to overtake on our one-way system during drop off and collection to speed up the process, which seems to be working very well. For those of you who have not been in school, we will continue to have staff outside to help guide you round the school.

#BigOutdoorArtChallenge

Thank you to everyone who sent in pictures of the artwork for the big art challenge. This has been a wonderful project initiated by the arts council for Learning Outside the Classroom and The Children's Challenge, and led in school by Miss Baldwin.



Thank you to everyone who took part.

Thank You Staff!

Finally, I am sure you would like to join me in taking this opportunity to thank all of the amazing teaching and admin staff at Durley who have worked so hard to provide an education for the children at home and at school in very difficult circumstances. I was looking through everything that has been posted on ClassDojo over the past four months, which is evidence of the enormous contribution all of the staff have made to ensuring our pupils continue to receive an education in a multitude of different ways alongside the skills based work packs whether children are at home or at school. Due to the size of our school, it has also been possible to tailor work support to the individual needs of parents and children thanks to the diligence and hard work of our staff. We are incredibly fortunate as a school to have such a great staff team!

We wish you all a restful break and look forward to seeing you all back in school safe and well on **Monday 7 September 2020.**

Kind regards

Kirstie Baines

Kirstie Baines
Headteacher