
Newsletter 4

Summer Term 2018

20 July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

This has been an unusual end to the school year with even more activities squeezed into every school day and a one day Ofsted inspection two weeks before the end of term. We are still awaiting the outcome of the inspection and will keep you all updated with the report in the new school year.

Many congratulations to Mrs Proudman and her family on the birth of her third child Mabel Ella who arrived on time last Friday. We look forward to a visit next term from them both.

With this terms amazing summer sunshine, we have taken full advantage of sporting opportunities. To get into the spirit of the World Cup this year, we held a whole school world cup day with each of our sixteen Year 6 children captaining a team of children comprising of a child from each year group across the school. It was a fantastic day of team work and tactics team Brazil winning the cup. We took two of our Year 2 teams to play in a rounders tournament at Wyvern College last week, finishing in joint first place with Fair Oak Infants. Our achievements in sports at all levels and with all year groups



this year is something we are looking forward to building on over the coming year. Our bronze medal for swimming at the Hampshire games putting our Year 3 and 4 swimming team in third place against all Hampshire schools in June was a very proud moment for us all. It was lovely to end the term by once again achieving the National Gold School Games Mark award for our commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive school sport over the past year.

We have continued to thrive with our music, with children in years 5 and 6 attending a day of workshops at the Wyvern Big Top and evening performance to parents and friends as part of the Wyvern arts week this year. We had over forty of our musicians playing in our school music concert this term with a wide range of instruments including brass, woodwind, piano and recorder. Six of our children entered music exams this term, and we await their results.

The children in Years 3 and 4 have been reading (and re-reading) books all term in preparation for our annual 'Battle of the Books' competition against Botley Primary School. This years final was a particularly nail biting final with us losing at the tiebreak question. Our thanks to our librarian Marcia Cook for organizing this event. We have also given a prize this year to the pupil who has read the most books in our 'Round the World' reading competition and completing the most interesting book reviews, which went to one of your Year 5 pupils.

This year we have seen a drop in attendance partly due to more illness than usual over the winter period. The total absence has been 3.7% which is still below National. I am hoping that we will do better next year!

We are delighted to say that this year we have continued to maintain our exceptionally high standards in national tests. 78% of the children in the Reception year group met the Early Learning Goals compared to 75% Nationally. All of the Year 1 children passed their phonics test, with 90% of them achieving 37 or more marks out of 40. At the end of Key Stage 1 over 80% of the pupils achieved the expected standard in Reading, writing and maths with a combined percentage of 71%.

At the end of Key Stage 2, the attainment was a similar story with 81% of pupils achieving at least the expected standard in all three areas of reading, writing and maths compared to 64% nationally. The results were 88% (possibly 94% in reading, 94% maths and 94% writing). We are delighted with the consistency of our results despite having relatively small cohorts.

Many thanks to all of the staff involved and the children for their continued hard work.

Our thanks to you all for your support and to the School Association for their continued hard work fundraising on our behalf. We will be purchasing new laptops in the next academic year to support the children's learning in IT. They will be holding their AGM on 19 September at 7:30pm. Please let us know if you would like information about joining the committee. The committee have also set the dates for their Christmas Fayre for the 1 December and Summer Fayre for the 6 July 2019, so please put the dates in your diaries now!!

This term our Governing Body have said goodbye and thank you to our chair of the premises committee, Holly Wood as her youngest child moves onto secondary school. Holly will be a great loss to the Governing Body for all of her hard work over the years in support of the school. She has supported us through our problems with flooding, been the driving force behind our school grounds project, campaigned for the school lay-by, encouraged parents to walk to school and organized our school grounds days – to name just a few of the projects she has worked on.



As the school year ends and holidays approach, we say farewell to our Year 6 leavers. This year is a momentous occasion with all sixteen of our pupils having attended Durley School from Day 1 in the Reception class and remaining with us for the whole seven years, with eleven of them having attended Ladybirds pre-school together before that. The children took part in the Diocesan Leavers' service in Portsmouth Cathedral alongside 500 children from other church schools in the diocese. 2 of our pupils proudly carried our school banner down the aisle at the start of the service. The children also took along their decorated 'Everyday Heroes chair' as part of this years Diocesan project.

It is with sadness and pride, we wish all of our Year 6 pupils all the very best of luck as they prepare to move on to the next stage of their education. This year we have fifteen of our pupils going to Wyvern College, and one to Wildern School.

They will be missed by us all.

We also say goodbye to the families who have had a long standing association with the school and thank them for their tremendous support of Durley School over the years.

This term we also say goodbye to Mr Higgins who has worked as a part of our team of Teaching Assistant in Key Stage 2 and Yellow class this year. We wish him well for the future.

INSET days 2018-2019

A reminder that the day closures for the next academic year are as follows:

Monday 3 September 2018, Friday 7 December,
Monday 25 February, Monday 22 July, Tuesday 23 July

Lunches

If your child is starting in Year 3 in September, this unfortunately marks the end of the Universal Free School Meals scheme. Lunches therefore will be charged at £2.30 per child, which will provide them with a varied and healthy selection of hot meals, salad, vegetables, homemade fresh bread and deserts.

Music Lessons

Next term, woodwind lessons will begin on Thursday 6 September, recorder and piano on Friday 7 September and brass on Thursday 13 September.

Term Dates

The school closes for the summer holiday period today Friday 20 July and will re-open on **Tuesday 4 September 2018 at 8:50am**. Monday 3 September is a teacher training day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at Durley School for their commitment and care for your children over the year.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you all for the tremendous support once again this year and for the many generous presents we have received. We wish you all a fun packed holiday and look forward to seeing you for the start of the new term in September.

Yours sincerely

Kirstie Baines - Headteacher