



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to everyone who managed to join us for lunch today and to our school cook Mrs Cauvin who did a fantastic job of feeding the 5,000 – well 170!



We had a great time last Friday making each other laugh for comic relief and raising..... The prize for the most laughter must go to Blue class and Mrs Crowley's Whoopi cushion. It was HILARIOUS!!

Many thanks to all of you who helped out at last weeks school disco. We couldn't have done it without you. We were very grateful to Miss KT Sparkles for leading the EYFS/Key Stage 1 disco and to all the staff who joined in.

Thank you to Mr Male who has uploaded video clips of the children having fun at both events. Please let us know if you are having any difficulty viewing them

Last week we interviewed for a member of staff for the summer term to work in Yellow class on Mondays and Tuesdays and Purple Class each Wednesday. We were delighted to be able to appoint Miss Imogen James, who we have got to know quite well already earlier in the term.

Mr Ollie McBeth will be leaving us at the end of this term to at last be able to go on his postponed travels around Australia for the coming year.

Well done to everyone who took part in this years Winter Reading Challenge. We were delighted to see it had been taken up by 35 of our children who all enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies in the school library last week as a treat for their hard work. Thank you to Mrs Cook or organising this.

Sport



March has been a great month for competitive sport. Year 3 and 4 took part in a swimming competition in the pool at Bishops Waltham Junior school and finished in 2nd place – missing out on the first place spot by only a couple of points. Year 5 and 6 took part in a hockey competition at Swanmore playing against many local teams and finished in first place. We took 2 Year 5 and 6 tag rugby teams to play against pupils from Fair Oak Junior School and played very well. Thank you to all of the children who have represented the school and to the many parents who have supported us at matches.

Covid-19

This week we have had a few staff and pupil absences due to Covid-19. Please can I remind you that we are currently still following Government guidance which states that if you do test positive, you should self-isolate for 5 days or after that until you have two negative tests on consecutive days. We have also had a few cases of chicken pox which is also a 5 day isolation period.

Next week (Friday 1 April), the next phase of the Government's 'Living with Covid' plan comes into effect. This means, free mass symptomatic and asymptomatic testing will end and will instead be targeted towards the most vulnerable. People with Covid symptoms will be asked to exercise personal responsibility when deciding whether to stay at home - until then they are still advised to do so. We are waiting further details on what this means in reality and whether Covid will be subject to infectious diseases guidance.

Durley School Association

I am delighted to see that we have had many of you stepping forward to volunteer to be on the DSA committee or/and to help out at events. We held our first meeting this week of the new committee and have put a few dates in the diary for up-coming events (please look for the dates at the end of this letter). We look forward to updating you on the new team. The very popular ice cream Friday will be returning at **3:30pm on Friday 29 April**, regardless of the weather, which is at the end of the first week back after the Easter break. Please look out for a letter next week for you to be able to reserve ice creams and lollies which can be paid for on the day on the school playground.

Music Concert for Parents of pupils who have peripatetic music lessons

We are very keen to go ahead with our music concert next **Wednesday 30 March at 2:30pm** in the school hall despite the recent unavoidable absence of our music teachers. Due to staff absence, the Year 3 recorder group will not be performing on this occasion. We look forward to hearing them play next term.

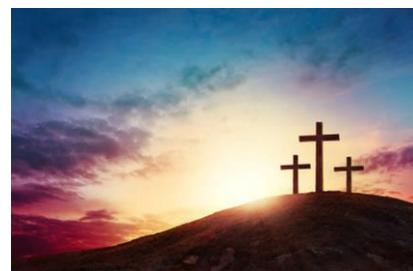


Walk for Ukraine

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Appeal for the Ukraine during LENT. We have raised an incredible £2 944 + £447.25 gift aid = **£3 391.25**

School Easter Service – Holy Cross Church Friday 8 April 2022 1:30pm

Holy Cross Church is a wonderful venue for a church service, but it is a very small space. We have decided to go ahead and invite families across the school to join us in the church on our final afternoon of term as it is such a lovely occasion however, we are asking for a limit of visitors to a maximum of 2 people per family. The service will be followed by hot cross buns and refreshments back in the school hall. We will be leaving school at 1:10pm and are always very grateful for help walking the children up to the church.



Please note any additions or necessary changes to the diary dates.

Diary Dates for the Spring Term 2022

Friday 25 March	11:45am and 12:15pm – Lunch for women who help us.
Sunday 27 March	10:00am Church in school for Mothering Sunday. Everyone is most welcome
Wednesday 30 March	2:30pm Music concert for pupils taking peripatetic music lessons
Monday 4 April	Viking day for Green and Red classes - please come dressed up as a Viking!
Tuesday 5 April	Wyvern Cluster vocal festival in Thornden Hall (new date)
Thursday 7 April	KS2 singing to the luncheon club in the Memorial Hall
Friday 8 April	1:30pm Easter Service in Holy Cross Church.

Diary Dates for the Summer Term 2022

Monday 25 April	8:45am return to school after the Easter Break
Friday 29 April	3:30pm return of Ice Cream Friday on the school playground!
Monday 2 May	Bank Holiday
Monday 9 May	Y6 SAT's National Testing week
9 - 11 May	Year 3/4 residential trip to Beaulieu
Thursday 12 May	4:30-6:00pm DSA Family Bingo/Quiz evening with Pizza
16-20 May	Year 5/6 residential visit to Isle of Wight
16-20 May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 24 May	Photographer in school – class and whole school photo.
Friday 27 May	3:30pm Ice Cream Friday on the school playground
30 May – 3 June	Half Term Break
Saturday 4 June	School display in the Memorial Hall in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee- Please come along.
Monday 6 June	School In-service training day for staff.
Tuesday 7 June	School re-opens after half term break
Tuesday 7 June	Blue and Yellow Class visit to Manor Farm, Botley
Thursday 16 June	7:30-8:30pm September 2022 new intake meeting for parents
Saturday 18 June	Church Fete at Wintershill Hall
Wednesday 22 June	1:30pm Sports Day
Thursday 23 June	Year 6 leavers service Portsmouth Cathedral. Children only.
Thursday 30 June	5:00-6:00pm Family Reading Night
Saturday 2 July	School Summer Fayre
Tuesday 5 July	Wyvern College transition day – parents to transport children
Tuesday 5 July	9:15-10:30am Whole School transition to September classes
Thursday 7 July	2:15pm Music concert
Tuesday 12 July	1:15pm and 6:30pm KS2 Production
Wednesday 13 July	6:30pm KS2 Production
Thursday 14 July	Annual Report to Parents
Wednesday 20 July	1:30pm Leavers service. Holy Cross Church. Whole School.

School in-service training days for 2022-2023

Thursday 1 September 2022
Friday 2 September 2022
Friday 2 December 2022

Monday 5 June 2023
Friday 21 July 2023

Finally, I would like to wish all of the mothers in our school community a well-deserved restful day on Sunday. We are looking forward to welcoming Church in school at 10:00am this Sunday which you are all welcome to come along and support.

Kind regards

Kirstie Baines
Headteacher