

**Dear Parents and Carers**

What a Year of excitement and success!! We managed to return to the normality of Christmas and end of the year productions, residential visits for Key Stage 2, sports day, the school summer fayre, swimming lessons and many more memorable events which make Durley School such a fun place to be. I am so proud of our wonderful children and dedicated staff at Durley School and grateful for the support of parents and the Governing Body who have together made this school year among our best.

Congratulations to all of our pupils in Key Stage 2 for a wonderful performance of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' last week. It was extremely funny, with some great acting and singing performances from our pupils. Many thanks to all of our staff involved in the production and particularly to Mr Male.



Our Governing Body have continued to monitor standards across the school in all areas to ensure that gaps in children's learning are being filled and progress is maintained. The work of the school improvement plan is central to their work and continuing to drive the school forward. This year we have returned to National testing which has been on hold since 2019. Despite all of the disruptions and thanks to the incredible hard work of all our pupils and staff, our pupils have excelled in all areas. We are delighted to say that we have continued to maintain our exceptionally high standards in national tests. 79% of the children in the Reception year group met the Early Learning Goals compared to 65.3% Nationally. 90% of the Year 1 children passed their phonics test, compared to 75.8% Nationally. At the end of Key Stage 1 over 80% achieved the expected standard in reading and writing compared to 67% and 57% Nationally and in maths 65% of our pupils achieved the expected standard in maths compared to 67% Nationally.

At the end of Key Stage 2, the attainment was outstanding with 95% in reading, 100% maths and 95% in writing, comparing favourably with National figures of around 70% achieving the expected standard. We are also extremely proud that over half of our Year 6 pupils achieved the higher standard in reading SPaG (Spelling, punctuation & grammar) and maths. Well done and thank you to all of the children who have worked so hard over the past seven years and all of the staff who have supported them on their learning journey through Durley School.

This is the season of music exams. We have brass and woodwind exams over the coming week and wish the children the best of luck. Congratulations to all three pupils who received Distinction and Merits in their recorder exams.

Battle of the Books

Congratulations to our Battle of the Books Team from year 3 and 4 who competed against the children at Botley School for the Trophy. The children had to read a number of books to get through each round and then had a final round against Botley School. Our whole team of eight knew the book inside out and were quick on the buzzer-often calling out the answers in unison. Following a nail biting tiebreak we were all thrilled to win!

Our overall school attendance over the year has been 93.2% which is not great, but under the circumstances of this year, and compared to a national figure of 89% we should feel very pleased. We have a few children in the school who have managed to dodge illness and have 100% attendance. Well done to those pupils.

Today we have said Goodbye to Miss James who has been teaching in yellow class this term and wish her the very best of luck with her house move and new baby due in November.

We also congratulate our Senior Admin. Officer Miss Amanda Pink who is getting married this summer to her long term partner Andrew. Amanda will in future be known as Mrs Pink.

A huge thank you to the new committee of the Durley School Association, for their continued hard work fundraising on our behalf. Thanks to your generosity and their hard work, the summer fayre raised an incredible **£3776.78** – the highest amount ever against a backdrop of rising household bills. The Governing Body have been investigating the installation of an all-weather multi-use games area (MUGA) to be installed on our school field for use at playtimes and for sport throughout the year.



As the school year ends and holidays approach, we say farewell to our Year 6 leavers. We had a wonderful leavers event at the end of last week with a BBQ organized by their parents and an overnight camp on the school field for the children. We were blessed with a warm evening, toasting marshmallows around the campfire, a game of rounders against the parents (who won), stargazing and not a lot of sleep! Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Y6 families, Mr Male and myself were presented with a wonderful new school camera, to capture all those future occasions and events to be able to share with you.

It is with sadness and pride, we wish them all the very best of luck as they prepare to move on to the next stage of their education. Our Year 6 leavers will be going off to Wyvern College, Wildern School, King Edwards, Boundary Oak, Churches and Deer Park in September.

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 who will also be leaving us today. Thank you for your tremendous support of Durley School over the years.

LUNCHES

If your child is starting in Year 3 in September, this unfortunately marks the end of the Universal Free School Meals scheme. If you think you might be eligible for income related free school meals please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Lunches will be charged at £2.50 per child, which will provide them with a varied and healthy selection of hot meals, salad, vegetables, homemade fresh bread and desserts.

MUSIC AND SWIMMING LESSONS

Next term, music lessons for Recorder and piano will begin on Friday 9 September. Woodwind and brass lessons will begin in the week starting Monday 12 September.

Next term, Year 3, 4 and 5 will have a weekly swimming lesson in Winchester commencing on Friday 23 September. We will be sending out permission letters and a questionnaire at the start of term to help us to group the children by swimming ability.

TERM DATES

The school closes for the summer holiday period today Wednesday 20 July and will re-open on **Monday 5 September 2022 at 8:45am**. Thursday 1 September and Friday 2 September will be training days.

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.



Wishing you all a wonderful summer break,
Kind regards

Kirstie Baines

Kirstie Baines
Headteacher