



# Durweston CE VA Primary School

Durweston, Blandford Forum, Dorset

DT11 0QA

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Head Teacher: Liz Wesley-Barker



30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

PL32 16/17

Dear Parents,

I'm jolly glad we had Sport's Day last Friday! Thank you to everyone who sent in photos - I will get them on to the blog soon!

## Arts Week!

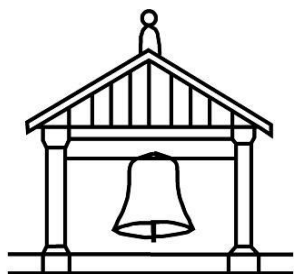


Des working in Seahorses



Mr Dickson in Seahorses

Hopefully your children have come home this week full of all the art they have been doing in school. We've been looking at a painting called Penelope and her Suitors. It's this year's picture in the National Gallery's Take One Picture initiative. Every year, the National Gallery take one picture from their collection and ask schools to produce work in response to it. This week we've had classes looking at cats, birds, tiles, weaving and perspective. Mr Dickson (Dad of Ella in Seahorses and George in Starfish) has been in working with each class and so has Des Alner, a local artist and one time teacher who, thanks once more to the amazing fund-raising of the PTA, we were able to bring in to work with each of the classes this week. I really hope the children have enjoyed their week. I know that the teachers have found it really useful to watch experts work with their classes. Take a look at your child's class blog for lots more pictures of what they've been getting up to this week.



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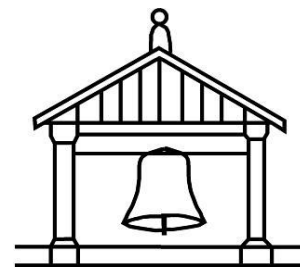
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## Thinking about September; remember to claim for pre-school funding!

On Monday, we had a meeting after school for parents new to Dolphins, and on Wednesday, I went down to Handy Paws to explain our plan for children from the pre-school to join with Starfish in the afternoons from September. This will enable us to offer 30 hours of nursery care to parents who want it. Please remember that if you want to claim for this funding, you must apply for a code before the 31<sup>st</sup> August. The 30 hours free child care offer is for working families in England with 3 and 4 year old children. Parents must be each earning at least £120 a week but no more than £100,000 a year.

## On track for OFSTED

On Tuesday, we had a visit from Mark Sandercock, our School Improvement Partner from the authority this week to look at our predictions for outcomes at the end of this year. We looked at data from Starfish, Year 1 phonics, Year 2 SATS and year 6 SATS. He seemed very pleased with what he saw and said that our results should ensure that we are solidly good for pupil outcomes next time OFSTED come to call. Remember that attendance was a key issue for us, as was Leadership and Management. I know that many of you were hoping that this last issue would be resolved by the end of this academic year. I still have heard nothing but am assured by the authority and Lesley Bryning, our Chair of Governors, that everyone is doing their very best to reach a solution. I can only thank you all for your continued patience and amazing support and promise once again, to share any news with you as soon as I have any.

## Attendance

I fear everything is going to go pear shaped pretty soon as I've have had a few holiday requests this week. ☹️ The government wants every child's attendance to be at least 96%. We are not allowed to authorise any holidays, except the most exceptional. From September, Dorset LA have decided that any family who take more than 5 days holiday in a 12 week period will be fined. I have also heard that if you child's attendance falls between 90%, absence for medical reasons will only be authorised if it is accompanied by a sick note from a doctor.

Class	This Week	Whole school this week	Whole school this year
Starfish	90.45%	<b>95.2% Requires Improvement</b>	<b>96.25% Good!</b>
Dolphins ☺️	99.29% Outstanding		
Seahorses ☺️	96.52% Very good		
Sharks	95.71%		
Porpoises	94.17 %		







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**Our 15 minutes of fame!**



We had film cameras in school on Wednesday as LFL (Local Food Links), the people who provide our lunches, came into make a film about their service. The children loved being film stars for a day, although the staff weren't quite as keen! The film will be used to market LFL to other schools.



**And so to next week...**

Rehearsals for the performance are starting in the village hall next week. Tickets will be on sale from next week, priced £2 each to cover costs of the license and hall hire. Two per family to start off with and we will keep a reserve list to allocate any seats that are left over. I know that will leave lots of people disappointed, but we can't make the village hall any bigger and we really can't do more than two performances - the children (and staff) are on their knees by the end of the second show.

On Tuesday, we will be very sadly saying goodbye to Sarah Roncaglia, our Assistant Cook but wishing her all the very best for the future. A sad day.



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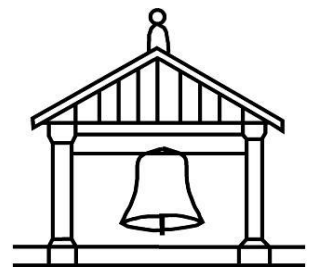
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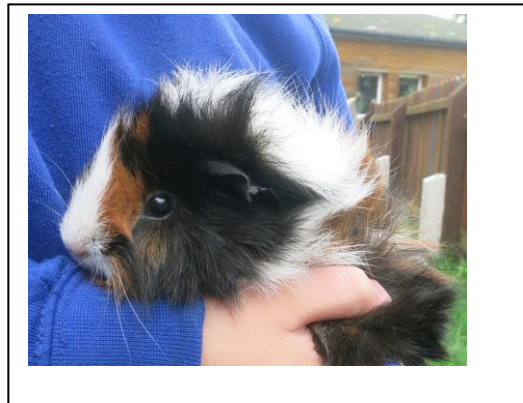


Transfer day is on Wednesday, when all the children spend some of the day in their new classes and our lovely year 6s go and find out what life is going to be like in the big school up the road. The Music Evening is on Thursday. This is one of the highlights of our year and one of my particular favourites. Please do come along even if your child isn't performing. It's an inspirational evening. This year, we are also hoping to display some of the art work produced during Arts week for you to enjoy whilst sipping a glass of wine!

## Hair today...

...but gone on Friday! Sponsor forms have gone out for the great hair cut on Friday! Lyndsay is losing her locks to raise money for Handy Paws. The PTA are going to provide tea and have asked for donations of cakes and biscuits. Please bring in your baking on Friday morning if you can - all donations gratefully received. Lyndsay has organised some stalls and games, so we've moved the start time of the event to 3.30pm. Teachers will deliver the children to the gate as normal at the end of the school day; please then come back into school together to watch the fun. If the weather's kind, we'll be on the playground; if not we might have to postpone gym and take over the hall. Watch this space!

## And finally cute pictures of guinea pigs...

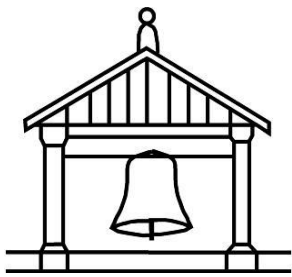


Have a great weekend everyone. I'm running round the Lake District in the Saunders Lakeland Mountain Marathon - please keep your fingers crossed for the weather!

Nicola Brooke

Acting Headteacher





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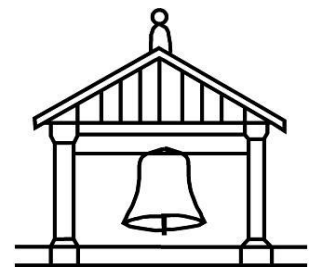
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## Dates for Your Diary

### *New dates added in bold*

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 6pm

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 6pm**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 3.30pm**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 6pm

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 9.15am

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 3.30 - 6pm

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 11am

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 12pm

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

Parent information evening for new Reception class

Transition day (more details to follow)

**Celebration of Music evening**

**The Great Hair cut**

**Orienteering week**

Last week for clubs

School production, matinee performance

School production, evening performance

Year 6 Leavers Treat

Sports Assembly

Optional Parents' Evening

Paddleboat Theatre present 'Rustle' funded by the PTA

Swimming Gala at QE - Yrs 3, 4, 5 and 6

Leavers Assembly

Family Picnic

END OF TERM