



# Durweston CE VA Primary School

Durweston, Blandford Forum, Dorset

DT11 0QA

Tel: 01258 452277

Email: [office@durweston.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@durweston.dorset.sch.uk)

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Acting Head teacher: Nicola Brooke



22nd September 2017

## NEWSLETTER

PL03 17/18

Dear Parents,

### Parent Forum

Thank you to all the parents who came to Parent Forum to talk about the £10 charge for teacher-led, after-school clubs. Although people had different views, the discussion was really positive and constructive and lots of ideas were shared. After some discussion, it was decided to reduce the charge to £5 per child per club per term starting from next term, which I hope is an acceptable compromise between making sure children have access to clubs and raising some money for the school. Thank you so much to everyone who came and shared their opinions.

At the end of the meeting, we briefly discussed fitbits; I confess I was surprised to learn that many parents are quite anti them being in school. On reflection, I don't think we can ban them, as many children are using them as watches but our PE policy currently calls for watches to be removed for PE, which is pretty standard practice in all schools. Should we reconsider? Let me know what you think.

### Climbing the Walls

Sharks were climbing the walls again - not in school, but at Bryanston. Half the class walked down in the sunshine on Tuesday afternoon to spend an hour testing their resilience, perseverance and self-belief. It is always amazing to see how the children overcome their fears and set their own targets for achievement. It is also lovely to see how supportive they are of each other and how they share and take pleasure in everybody's successes. And you thought they were just climbing! The second half of Sharks will be climbing next week.



With thanks to the team at Bryanston who made this possible.





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## Chinese Whispers

Please, please could I ask that if you have any comments or opinions about the school, they are not shared on social media? Please come and speak to me!

## Harvest Festival

It's that time of year again! Our Harvest Festival is on Friday morning at 9.15am (ish). The church is being decorated on Thursday afternoon, so could all donations please be brought in on Thursday morning? After the service, all the tinned and packet food is donated to the Blandford Food bank and this year, like last year, Simone Wells-McDonald (the lady who runs cookery club) is going to work with groups of children to turn all of the fresh vegetables into soup. She does need some adult helpers though so please let the office know if you are able to come in on Friday and chop veg! We will be working out some way of distributing the soup at the end of the day.....

## Disco

Get out your glad rags and come down and party! The PTA are holding a disco on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. More details to follow!

## 'Til Death us Do Part

Don't forget to save the date for the am dram highlight of the year! If it's only half as good as last year, it will be great. And fab food too. Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the Village Hall. £15 to include a glass of wine and a light supper. Prize for the Best Dressed Wedding Guest.

## Even more am dram!

Fancy treading the boards yourself? Auditions are being held this Sunday for parts in Jack and the Beanstalk, this year's Durweston pantomime. 6 -8pm in the village hall with rehearsal scheduled every Sunday up to the 17<sup>th</sup> December at times to be confirmed, with performances on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February. You know you want too...oh yes you do!!

## Newspaper

If anyone has newspaper they could spare, we could really do with some in school please. We use it to line the guinea pig hutch and to cover tables when we're painting. Broadsheets are best but we're not fussy!

## Gumshields

Can I please remind parents that children in Sharks and Porpoises must have a gum-shield and shin pads in order to take part in PE this term, as they are playing hockey with wooden sticks. Quite a few children didn't have them this week, which made it very difficult for Sam, our new PE coach, to deliver the lesson he had planned. Gum shields and shin pads are available from Rag Tags in Blandford.





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## School Bus

Yes I know it's too big. And it turns up just at the worst time of the afternoon BUT the person who parked in the bus stop on Thursday morning made it impossible for the driver to get into the bus stop at all. There are very young children on the bus this year and this really didn't make their lives any easier. I know you're all busy and it is very tempting, however the space is there for a reason. Also, the driver does have to turn the bus round and cars parked at the junction with Haycombe make things very difficult for him (it's amazing really that he hasn't scraped anyone yet). Thank you, to the vast majority of parents who do park considerately. I know it's a nightmare; if anyone has any ideas as to how the situation could be improved, I'd love to hear them. (Have I told you yet how great electric bikes are?)

## Homework

Hot on the heels of topic webs and letters last week, the staff have been beavering away producing ideas for activities linked to topic for your child to complete at home. This year, we are asking for at least one high quality piece of homework per term, though obviously we'd love to see more. The best finished work will be shared at our Open Morning on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. (I am prepared to offer a special prize for the best photograph of a toga-wearing family.)

## Green fingers

Thanks to Tanya Gedye we have some spare allium christophii bulbs if anyone would like to buy some for a small donation. If you would like some please speak to Mrs Sutherland (she's normally hanging around in the morning!)



And finally...



The Nature table is looking fabulous thanks to some amazing finds that have been brought in this week. Many thanks to all of you who have brought something in.





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And look at what Oscar (our newest year 6) gave to me on Wednesday morning this week.



It brought a tear to my eye. Thank you Oscar.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Nicola Brooke

## Dates for Your Diary

### ***New dates added in bold***

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30am

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 9am**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 9am

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 9am**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 9am**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 9am**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Dorset Music Service lessons start this week

Sharks Climbing wall trip

National Poetry Day (**this not the competition day**)

Harvest Festival at St Nicholas Church

PTA Murder Mystery Evening, Durweston Village Hall

**Sharks class assembly**

Welly Walk

**Porpoises class assembly**

**PTA Disco**

**HALF TERM**

Children return to school

**Seahorses class assembly**

Parent's Evening week

**Dolphins class assembly**

Individual school photos

Children in Need

**Open morning**

KS1 Nativity

KS2 Carol service

**END OF TERM**

