

# Durweston CE VA Primary School

Durweston, Blandford Forum, Dorset

DT11 0QA

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Website: [www.durweston.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.durweston.dorset.sch.uk)

Acting Head teacher: Nicola Brooke



18th January 2018

## NEWSLETTER

PL17 17/18

Dear Parents,

Urgh, anyone else suffering from January-itis? I had been hoping to send you a newsletter full of lovely photos of children learning to play handball but sadly the sports coach we had booked on Wednesday failed to turn up ☹. In fairness to her, it was because her car broke down. Many thanks to Sam, our sports coach, who stepped into the breach and ran impromptu sports lessons for us instead. We will rebook the handball training for a later date.

Then the RNLI lady didn't turn up for Dolphins on Monday - apparently she couldn't find the school (let's hope she's not in charge of a lifeboat...) She's rescheduled for next Monday. And then we had to abandon our netball match on Tuesday due to the dismal weather. As Jacob, discovered, it's hard to play netball when you've pulled your sweatshirt sleeves over your hands to keep them warm. We came inside for a nice warm game of bench ball instead.

### Parent's Forum

Thanks as ever to the parents who came along. We talked about homework; most people seemed happy with what is being set at the moment. We also talked about parents' evening. Next time, we are going to trial offering appointments from 2pm to 6pm, with the interviews taking place in the hall. Parents may take their children home after they have talked to their teachers. With bigger classes in school this year, it was hard to fit everyone in last time and we're hoping this might help. I know it's a change, but it's the way they ran parent's evenings at my children's primary school. Can we see how it goes?

### Amazing generosity (making the sums add up!)

At the Parents Forum, we also talked about Maths No Problem. This is the maths scheme we have introduced in school since September. It is based on the Singapore approach to teaching maths and is the only maths scheme approved by the DfE. However it is not funded by them. In order to access the teacher guides and parent videos on the website, you have to buy the text books and work books – for Durweston, this would cost £5000 (at the moment we are managing with one book per class). Clearly, this is a significant investment. And although much reduced, there would be an ongoing annual cost. At the end of the meeting, Libby Scott, Tyler in Porpoises aunt, asked to donate a substantial amount of money towards buying the scheme. We are all truly amazed, and truly grateful. She says it makes up for the cake sales she hasn't been able to organise! I am, of course, seeking funding/sponsorship from other sources – if anyone has any ideas, please let me know.

### Tour guides extraordinaire!

It's been a busy week for our Head Boy, Jacob Corrie and our Head Girl, Ciara Smyth. They have been showing round the potential headship candidates. Every single person has commented on what great ambassadors they have been for the school. Obviously this is no great surprise to us, but praise is always nice to hear. Well done and thank you to you both. (If you haven't heard it yet, Jacob and Ciara have also done a great message for our answerphone.)





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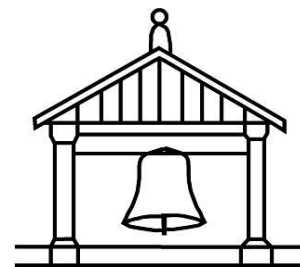
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## More panto fun!

Durweston Village Players will be performing the classic pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at Durweston Village Hall! Among the cast are many children from the school as well as their mums and dads, and residents from Durweston and Stourpaine villages, including Boyd James, Max Wigg, Shae Hallett, Jamie Vick, Phoebe Saint, Izabelle Legg, Lila James, Lacey-May Hallett, Ella Dickson and Elliza Legg.

Please come along and show your support - it is not to be missed! All proceeds will go to the Playing Fields Committee, ensuring the upkeep of the playground and field for the use of the school and local neighbourhood.

The dates are Friday 9th February at 7.30pm, Saturday 10th February at 2.30pm and again at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from Chris Newton and Caroline Dickson in the playground after school, or from the Village Hall Box office - [villagehall@durweston.org.uk](mailto:villagehall@durweston.org.uk). Tickets cost £7.50 an adult, £5 a child and £20 for a family. If you would like a poster to display please speak to Chris or Caroline.

## Attendance

| Class     | Attendance this week (should be 96% +) | Whole school this year |
|-----------|--|------------------------|
| Starfish  | 87.22%                                 | 95.75%                 |
| Dolphins  | 97.86 % ☺                              |                        |
| Seahorses | 93.33 %                                |                        |
| Sharks    | 98.52% ☺                               |                        |
| Porpoises | 98.71 % ☺                              |                        |

Have a lovely weekend,

Nicola Brooke

## Dates for Your Diary

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

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 9.30am

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 6pm

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Little rascals toddler group starts

BOOK WEEK

Books at Bedtime

PTA Sponsored pancake flip

HALF TERM

CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL

Parents Evening

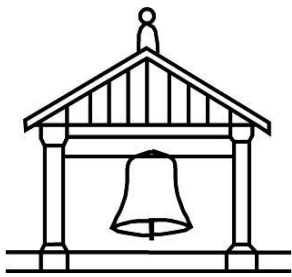
Parents Evening

END OF TERM

CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL







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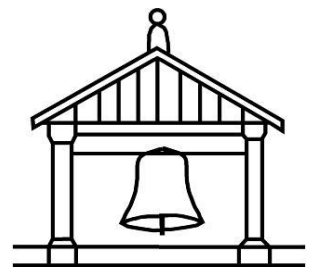
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**DURWESTON VILLAGE PLAYERS  
PRESENT...**

*Jack  
and the  
Beanstalk*

**At Durweston  
Village Hall**

Friday 9th Feb at 7.30pm  
Saturday Matinee 10th Feb at 2.30pm  
Saturday Evening 10th Feb at 7.30pm

ADULT £7.50  
CHILD £5.00  
FAMILY £20  
(2 Adults 2 Children)

For Information and Tickets  
Contact Box Office:  
[villagehall@durweston.org.uk](mailto:villagehall@durweston.org.uk)

