



# Durweston CE VA Primary School

Durweston, Blandford Forum, Dorset

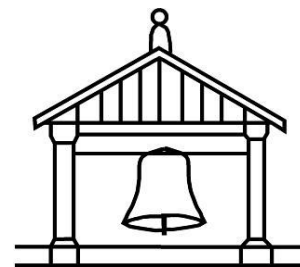
DT11 0QA

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

Head Teacher: Liz Wesley-Barker



21<sup>st</sup> October 2016

## NEWSLETTER

PL07 16/17

Dear Parents,

So the Battle of Hastings has been well and truly celebrated here at Durweston. Mrs Cresswell organised a brilliant day for Dolphins and Starfish on Monday to follow Sharks and Porpoises trip to Old Sarum on Friday. We retold the tale in assembly, re-enacted the battle and thought about why this was such an important moment in British History. Thank you too to all the parents who came and supported in so many different ways. Special thanks however must go to Celia Smyth for helping sort out the traffic chaos last Friday morning. Always good to have a police officer on hand when you need one!

### Christmas in October?

I know it's early (although my local Sainsbury's have been selling mince pies for weeks) but the children have been beavering away on Christmas card designs this week. Their designs should be coming home either today or on the first Monday after half-term. Please could any orders for cards be returned to school by the 4th November complete with the payment, so that the PTA can make sure they get printed and delivered in good time for you to send them to all of your friends and family!

### Attendance

Our attendance figures last week were amazing!

Starfish	99.03%
Dolphins	97.86%
Seahorses	98.57
Sharks	98.85
Porpoises	99.63

Attendance at Durweston hasn't always been great. Last year, overall our attendance was 95.06%, which puts us in the bottom 20% of schools. To be outstanding (which is, of course, where we'd like to be), attendance needs to be above 96%. Seems like a small difference in numbers, but it makes a huge difference to the powers that be. So please, keep sending your children into school!

### Open Afternoon

It was lovely to see so many of you in school on Tuesday afternoon. We hope you enjoyed having a look at some of the work that your children have been doing so far this term. Some of the homework projects are truly awesome! There is still time to do more - the homework deadline isn't until the 29th November!





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This time, special praise needs to go to Amelie and Ciara. We received an email from a prospective parent who said "I have been given a tour round schools before by pupils before but never have I met two such lovely children who did such an excellent job. They were a credit to the school." Isn't that nice to hear?

## Welcome back!

Some of you may have been surprised to see Helen Hancock back in Handy Paws on Thursday morning. The good news is that she's back for good! Everyone here is really pleased to have her on the team again. As well as doing mornings in Handy Paws, she'll also be working with Lyndsay on a Friday in Reception.

## Window Cleaners

Thank you to Mrs Banyard for passing our details on to her window cleaner, Richard Strange. He has said that he can clean our windows for a much more reasonable £175 and he can do it over the weekend. Hurrah!

## Music with Faye Gostick

The Key Stage 1 music club have been having a great time singing and playing. Just recently they've even started learning the ukulele. But what they need now is a few more members. Why not try it out for a week? If your child is a bit nervous, parents can come along too. Thursdays from 3.30pm to 4.15pm in Starfish class is the place to be.

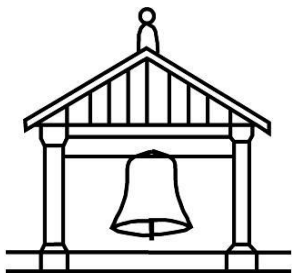
## Mr Paulley's trees

We hope you like the trees that Mrs Sutherland has chosen in remembrance of Mr Paulley. She has chosen plants that should give all round colour. Once again we have been very lucky to have been helped by Mark Farwell, who donated all of the topsoil, and Ollie Coombes who came and put it into the tyres. We are very grateful to them both. After half term, we will organise a plaque and a small ceremony.

## Community day

Mrs Sutherland has done what she can in the garden but now we need a bit more help. There are plants that need moving, a border that needs digging out, woodwork to paint, fences to mend and chicken wire to put up. If you think you could help, we're planning to hold a Community Day on Saturday 12th November. Come to school at about 10am for a 10.30am start. Bring a paintbrush and or a spade and Mrs Sutherland will find you something useful to do!





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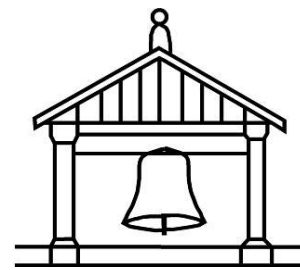
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## More thank yous!

So many people seem to be helping us out at the moment. This week, we have been lucky enough to have been given 16 computers and 3 laptops by Mr Cassidy, Callie and Neve's dad. Although no longer wanted by his company, they are considerably better than the ones we have in school. Our IT man, Mike Lloyd-Jones will be installing them in classrooms over half term.

Those of you who came to the Murder Mystery Night last Saturday will know what a brilliant evening it was. Much fun was had by all and some clever people even managed to work out who-did-it. Best of all, it raised £800 for school! Huge thanks (again) to the PTA. Please can we do it again next year?

And so to half term, it's certainly been a busy one. STILL no sign of our OFSTED report. I did ring on Monday and was told it would be here by the end of the week, but that is exactly what they said two weeks ago. Thank you so, so much for all your support. We are lucky to have such a brilliant bunch of parents and children (and the staff are not bad either). Please make sure you all take some time to do something nice over the half term. See you on the 31st!

Nicola Brooke

Acting Headteacher

## Dates for Your Diary

### **Mon 24th - Fri 28th October**

Monday 31st October

Tuesday 1st November, 2.45pm

Tuesday 8th November

Thursday 10th November

Thursday 10th November

### **Friday 11th November**

Tuesday 15th November

Thursday 17th November

Friday 18th November

Tuesday 22nd November

Monday 28th November

Tuesday 29th November, 11am

Wednesday 30th November

Friday 2nd December

Saturday 10th December

Sunday 11th December, 6pm

Tuesday 13th December, 2pm

Wednesday 14th December, 10am

Wednesday 14th December, 6pm

Friday 16th December

### **HALF TERM**

Children return to school

Parent Forum meeting

Parent's Evening 3.40pm - 6pm

Dolphins class assembly

Parent's Evening 3.40pm - 6pm

### **Durweston Poetry Competition**

Seahorses class assembly

Individual photos

Children in Need

Porpoises class assembly

### **LAST WEEK FOR CLUBS**

Starfish Coffee morning

Sharks class assembly

Fun run (more details to follow)

PTA Christmas Fayre

Durweston Carol Service

**Dolphins and Seahorses** Nativity

**Handy Paws and Starfish** Nativity

**Sharks and Porpoises** Carol Service

### **END OF TERM**

