

# Durweston CE VA Primary School

Durweston, Blandford Forum, Dorset

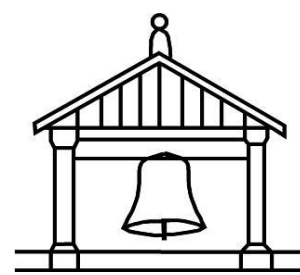
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Website: [www.durweston.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.durweston.dorset.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Liz Wesley-Barker



22nd September 2016

## NEWSLETTER

PL03 16/17

Dear Parents,

Well, I'm hoping that by the time you read this, we will all have celebrated a fantastic Harvest festival in church and you will all be enjoying the delicious vegetable soup that we made. Donations have been rolling in all week so a huge thank you is due once again to you all, to Mrs Walls-McDonald for organising the soup making and to the parents who came together on Wednesday to decorate the church. We are very grateful to you all.

### Dorset Gold!

On Friday afternoon, many of the children watched Dorset athlete, Paul Blake, win the T36 400m at the ParaOlympic games in Rio. Seeing and hearing the children cheer as Paul crossed the line to take the gold medal was one of those heart-warming moments that make this job so worthwhile. Thanks to Mrs Robbins and the staff (and Paul Blake!) for making this happen.

### Have your say

Thanks to all the parents who came to the last Parent Forum meeting. It was lovely to hear so many parents being positive about our school. Please put the date of the next meeting in your diary, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 at 2.45pm. If you would like to get even more involved in school life, we will soon be looking for a new parent governor. If you think you would be interested, please ask at the school office. If you would like a copy of the minutes from the Parent Forum meeting please also ask at the office.

### Pupil voice

Mrs Saint has been analysing the results of a survey that your children completed at the end of last term. We asked them what they would like to improve and the most common answer was...NOTHING! We also asked them what they liked best about school. Playtime scored highly but so did Maths, DT, teachers and orienteering. What fantastically well-rounded children we have! The full results will soon be up on our website.

### How will our garden grow?

Not with silver bells and cockle shells, but with an extremely generous grant of £400 from the Dorset Gardens Trust! On Tuesday, two members of the Dorset Gardens Trust came to present the cheque to the head boy, Isaac and head girl, Amelie, and to members of the school council, all of whom are hoping to get involved in the planning of the new gardens.

At the same time, in another part of the school grounds, parents Ollie and Hannah Coombes were delivering two enormous tractor tyres from their farm which the school are planning to use as planters for three small trees and for the children to sit on whilst they wait for their parents at the end of the day. We think they are going to look fantastic!

### Out and about

Children from Dolphins and Starfish have been out and about in the village this week. Dolphins went for a walk around the village whilst Starfish went blackberry picking. Mrs Cresswell plans to make jam and scones - I hope she invites me to tea!

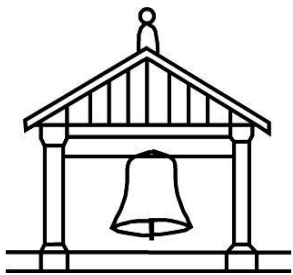


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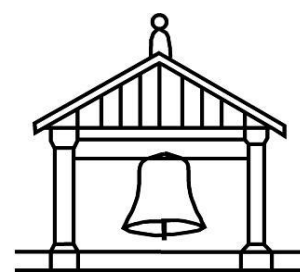
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## Farewell

It is with regret that we are going to be saying goodbye to our new person at Handy Paws. Although Tania has really enjoyed coming back to Durweston (her childhood home), it has become clear to her that the job takes up more of her time than she had anticipated and so she has made the difficult decision to hand in her resignation. I'm sure we would all like to say thank you to Tania for the time she has spent with us and wish her the very best of luck. I hope our paths will cross again in the future.

## Helping your Child at Home

Excited about homework? Well yes we are. Today all the children should come home with a sheet explaining our new homework scheme. Each teacher has come up with some activities linked to their class topics that we are hoping you will enjoy doing at home with your child/children. There should be something for everyone and by doing different tasks the children can earn points. Then, towards the end of term, we can have an open afternoon when we all look at the amazing things the children have been doing. Let me know if we need a category for parents!

## Starfish Reading Workshop

Mrs Cresswell will be holding a reading workshop for all the new parents of Starfish children on Tuesday 4th October at 3pm. The talk will include how reading is taught in school, how you can help your child at home and how the children will learn the letters and sounds.

## Payments

If your child attends breakfast club or after-school club you will receive a slip in their book bag next Friday. This will let you know if you have any balances outstanding. Please could we ask that your payments are up to date.

## Minibus drivers

We now only have two parents who are able to drive minibuses for us. Is there anyone else out there who would be willing to take the test? We can arrange it for you - it takes about 2 hours at Downlands School at Blandford Camp. Being able to use minibuses for transport can really help us to keep the cost of trips down, so if you can help, we'd love to hear from you.

## Parking

I just wanted to say we've been back at school for nearly two weeks and no one has come to complain about the parking! Long may it last!

And finally...

Remember there is no school tomorrow! Enjoy a lie in if you can and we'll see you all again on Monday 26th September

Best wishes and have a lovely weekend

Nicola Brooke  
Acting Head teacher

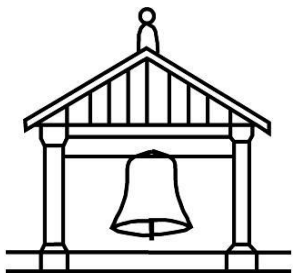


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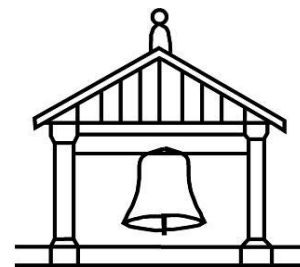
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## Dates for Your Diary

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 8pm**

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 3pm

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 3.30pm

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> - Fri 28<sup>th</sup> October**

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2.45pm**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 11am

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 10am

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

## **STAFF TRAINING DAY**

**PTA meeting at the White Horse, Stourpaine**

Cake sale after school

Starfish reading workshop for parents

Open afternoon

## **HALF TERM**

Children return to school

**Parent Forum meeting**

Parent's Evening 3.40pm - 6pm

Dolphins class assembly

Parent's Evening 3.40pm - 6pm

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)

Durweston Carol Service

**Dolphins and Seahorses Nativity**

**Handy Paws and Starfish Nativity**

**Sharks and Porpoises Carol Service**

## **END OF TERM**



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